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R. S. STURTEVANT

CONTENTS

Japanese Irises, <i>B. Miyazawa, Japan</i>	3
White Irises, <i>F. Denis, France</i>	6
Some Irises of Hérault, <i>W. R. Dykes, England</i>	10
Tid Bits 9th	12
1925 Notes	13
From Frank W. Campbell, <i>Michigan</i>	16
From J. C. Wister	18
From E. O. James, <i>California</i>	22
From Sherman R. Duffy, <i>Illinois</i>	22
Odd Notes from various sources	24
Notes on Beardless Irises	26
Convenient Planting for the Nursery and Show Garden	27
Black List Discussion	29
On Policies	30
On Iris Troubles and Practices	36
Brevities	37
Iris Mrs. Marion Cran, <i>H. S. Jackson, Indiana</i>	39
Suggestions From and To Members	40

1/15



W. R. DYKES, M.A., L.-ès-L.

Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society.

It is with sincere regret that I record the death of Mr. W. R. Dykes our foremost authority on the Iris. As author of the splendid monograph "The Genus Iris" he was known to the botanical world and as author of the now unobtainable "Irises" and the recent publication "A Handbook of Garden Irises" he became a friend to every lover of the hardy garden.

By correspondence, by his contributions to the magazines, and by personal contact with those who have been so fortunate as to have known him he has expressed in his success the value of meticulous care in observation allied with a pleasing method of presentation. Rarely indeed is one man able to present mere facts in such a way as to win friends beyond the normal field of his special interest.

Since our organization in 1920 Mr. Dykes has been an Honorary and honoured member of this Society. To him is due the recent formation of The Iris Society in England. Both as individuals and as members of a society we owe him much for his co-operation and aid.

Chance alone brought something of his work and spirit into this bulletin. That will not be again the case. His interest was not centered on the garden pogoniris and, perhaps, we can best show our respect for the man and our appreciation of his work by our expression of an ever-increasing interest in the species and hybrids of other irises. And, withal, our sense of loss is necessarily but small (irretrievable as it may seem) as compared to that experienced by the larger group to whom a man of such varied interests has brought new knowledge based on new experiences.

May we give practical proof of our regrets by continued co-operation in the carrying out of the work of our society and by an enhanced consideration of the Iris family as a whole. Though Mr. Dykes the man be beyond our ken, Mr. W. R. Dykes, the noted student of irises, is familiar to us all.

Japanese Irises

B. Miyazawa.

Professor of Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture,
Miyazaki, Japan

Since my arrival at San Francisco last March I have paid great attention to the many ornamental plants commonly used in parks, along boulevards, and in private gardens throughout the country and it is full of interest to find that various plants from Japan are utilized and will thrive everywhere in this country. Of these the Japanese Ivy, Ligustrum, Berberis, Acer, Pachysandra, etc. are the most widely spread and although the well-known Cherry trees with their ethereal beauty in the spring are, at present, found only at certain places they are becoming more widely planted each year.

Now the Japanese irises were first imported about fifty years ago and "probably the first varieties were brought to this country by Thomas Hogg about the year 1869 but it took many years to become popular" (Horticulture, Vol. VIII). But it was known in Europe much earlier that there were many varieties in Japan and some of them were then imported.

The wild species is widespread from eastern Siberia and Saghalien to Japan, and in Japan it grows from Kyushi, the southern island, to Hondo, the central island and Hokkaido or northern island but flourishes more luxuriantly in the north than in the south. Judging from my study of the living plants gathered from various parts of Japan there is not much variation among the wild plants except in the case of those which grow at Iwate-Ken situated in the northern part of Hondo and as yet no description has been published of this plant. It has long, slender, somewhat glaucous leaves, tall flower stems and the blue-purple segments of the flower are all slender. So it is distinctly different than other plants of other localities and must be recognized as a botanical variety. The irises grow chiefly in open, sunny fields where there is plenty of moisture but not where the ground is flooded the year around. Sometimes they are found on somewhat dry land but even there the ground water is usually near the surface and the plants seem to dislike stagnant water. This fact should be carefully considered when we cultivate this plant.

The history of the cultivation of this plant began more than one hundred and thirty years ago though our first record dates back one hundred and twenty-five years. There was and still is a village called Horikiri in the suburbs of Tokyo (or Yedo as it was then called), and it was famous for its flower growing. A farmer named Izaemon Kotaka was very fond of flowers and when he climbed Mt. Fuji he saw irises in bloom and carried roots home with him. His son also was interested in flowers and raised many seedlings but the degree of variation among them is not known. Tokugawa Shogun heard of these irises and accompanied by his attendants, himself visited the iris garden. From about that time the iris became known to the people of Yedo. The son got three varieties, all still in existence, from Sakingo Matsudaira, a gardener at Yedo, who collected various kinds of garden varieties of trees and herbs. Moreover he got varieties from everywhere including "Junihito" which I shall have occasion to mention later. Thus was established a famous Iris garden and in about forty years there were more than a hundred varieties. There appeared other iris growers in the same village and as they planted many thousands of plants in their gardens they were extremely glorious at the blooming time. Hence the

people from Tokyo crowded and gaily enjoyed their holiday. The words "Horikiri-no-Hanashobu" which mean "Iris at Horikiri" were well-known in Tokyo until lately but are beginning to be forgotten. It is very regretful that this is the tendency of the times in Tokyo—the iris are still grown but "Horikiri" is less celebrated.

The number of named varieties is now over three hundred and is constantly increasing. A nursery called Yoshinoen, outside of Tokyo, has produced many fine varieties within the last fifteen years. I have been working on them for the last twelve years at the Agricultural Experimental Station of Kanagawa-Ken near Yokohama and now have some seven hundred new sorts selected from nearly 30,000 seedlings. These are being tested most carefully but I can confidently say that from among them we can select several that surpass in size and color even the best of the old varieties.

There are two ways of planting in Japan, one is ordinary planting out-of-doors and the other planting in pots which is not common in Tokyo. They may be transplanted or divided from early spring until late fall but the best time is in July just after the flowering season. If we transplant at this time new leaves and roots come up and will be in good condition to withstand the winter cold and to produce bloom the following year. In field planting it is usual to use low lands, often a paddy field where water can be drawn at any time but this does not always mean bog or swamp land as many paddy fields are not swampy. Such land is not used wholly for convenience in watering but largely because the land is itself low. When we stand at the same level as the plants and look out over them all the flowers appear on one line. It is better to command a view from a little higher place. As pictured in Horticulture, July 15, 1925, a bridge is sometimes built which we call "Yatsu-Hashi" meaning "eight bridges" as convention demands that number. This is solely a means of giving visitors a place from which to look down upon the flowers.

As out-door plants the Japanese irises will certainly prove ideal material for planting along ponds, creeks, lakes, and even river banks. There is such a planting at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden but they should be planted in large masses to secure a fine effect.

In Japan they are sometimes grown in pots so that they may be brought into a room when in bloom and where the grower and his friends may take pleasure in their beauty and, over a cup of tea, study details of height and color and form. This practise, however, is, unfortunately becoming rare.

In Japan we also have another group of iris not known in America and called Ise-Hanashobu from the name of a province "Ise" in the central part of the island. This differs from those of Tokyo in having longer flower segments, the outer segments drooping which looks very nice. Although it is certain that it was developed separately there is no doubt that it possesses the same botanical characters. Hence all the garden varieties come from the one species and not as hybrids of *I. sibirica*, *I. tectorum*, or *I. albopurpurea* which have been grown for many years in our gardens. This has been ascertained by careful experiment.

I shall not write on the general characters of the flowers that are well-known to Americans but I will mention certain special forms. We have but one true double flowered variety "Mine-no-Matsukazi," where all the flower organs are changed to petals. It is however, not a flower of large size and with its blue venations is not recommended. Usually the parts of the iris flower are arranged in threes but in one variety "Juni-hitoe" they are arranged in fives, that is, inner and outer segments, stamens and pistils, even the chambers of the ovary are each

five in number, although occasional flowers are normal. It is a red-purple with yellow at the base of the segments and breeds true when self-fertilized. When crossed with a single flower however, the second generation shows some plants with six petals (generally called double-flowered), some normal and some that are pentapetalous. There are also other curious forms in which the outer segments do not open but stand erect uniting and forming a rather ball-shaped flower. These are, however, only curiosities, even in Japan.

The Japanese iris is used as a cut-flower but for mass effect not for artistic arrangement. It is too large and gorgeous and even the leaf character is not fitted to an "Ikebana" flower arrangement. This "Ike-



In the Garden of Mrs. Deeds, Indianapolis, Ind.

bana" is a matter of special study as it requires the arrangement of only a few sprays of flowers or branches suggestive of wild nature held in stable equilibrium and, when complete, it is considered a true work of art. *I. albopurpurea* is much better fitted to such a use.

In closing I wish to emphasize certain points if I may be permitted to speak without reserve.

1. Although I have not been able to see all the varieties grown in America, they do not seem to represent the best to be found in Japan.
2. To use a foreign language correctly is very difficult and there are many mis-spelled Japanese names attached to irises and peonies. They should either be used correctly or the changes recorded and published.

3. So-called Japanese names unknown in Japan have often been used and apparently the varieties were renamed by some nurserymen.

Note. Dr. Miazawa has been kind enough to correct the published list of Japanese names and as we plan some special publications on the Japanese Irises in 1927 it seems desirable to concentrate all available information in one issue.

White Irises*

by F. Denis

We have in cultivation a good number of iris with flowers more or less pure white; some are botanical varieties, others hybrids. With the exception of *Iris Ochroleuca*, (syn. *I. Orientalis*, Miller, *Iris Gigantea*, Carriere) I doubt if there exists another botanical species with white flowers. Mr. Dykes has shown that *I. Albicans* was but a variety of the purple-flowered *I. Madonna* and that *Irises Kashmiriana* and *Bartoni* were also varieties of a mauve-violet species of Kashmir. While as to *I. Florentina* there does not exist in any herbarium an authentic specimen of a plant found in a natural state.

Excepting the *Oncocyclus* all the other sections comprise varieties or hybrids with white flowers. Do real albinos exist? According to the definition an albino ought by seed to give exclusively plants with white flowers when it is fertilized with itself and when it is crossed with another albino. I only know two irises answering to the first condition and none up to the present to the second. *Irises Tectorum alba* and *Sibirica* var. *Snow queen* fertilized by themselves have always given without exception seedlings with white flowers. *I. Albicans* in a natural state in Herault never produces seeds. Nevertheless I have been able to obtain some by crossing a specimen coming from Mardin in Persia with a flower of a native *Albicans*.

The four plants resulting from the seed reproduced *Albicans* and the flowers had no trace of purple. This experiment was made on too small a scale to enable one to prove albinism.

At several times I have made sowings of *I. Bartoni* self-fertilized; in general they have reproduced the mother except one which had purple flowers, which confirms Mr. Dykes's hypothesis.

I. Ungicularis alba, better known by the name *Stylosa alba*, gives by seedlings only a proportion of thirty per cent of white. *I. Innocenza* gives by sowings about half whites and half variegata with veined yellow flowers close to the type. A hybrid of Sir Michael Foster's known by the name of Mrs. G. Darwin fertilized by itself gave only three seedlings, all three with white flowers larger than those of the parent and of a purer white. As with *I. Albicans*, the test was made on too small a scale to prove albinism. Sir M. Foster has obtained a very beautiful hybrid with large white flowers lightly tinged with blue which he has called *Kashmiriana Shelford* variety. Fertilized by itself the plants resulting from the seeds have chiefly given *I. Cypriana* var. *Ricardi* and *pallidas*, all with purplish flowers. Nevertheless two seedlings were found with white flowers, one fairly good to which I have given the name of *Blanc Strie*; the falls are in fact veined and edged with purple on a white ground.

I have summed up the results of several personal experiences, unfortunately too incomplete. I have tried many times by fertilizing with themselves to get seed of *I. Florentina* and *Germanica alba*. I have never had anything but sterile seeds.

I shall pass rapidly in review the various white irises in cultivation grouping them by sections.

Pegoniris or Bearded Iris. The best known are *Irises Albicans*, *Florentina* and *Germanica alba*.

The origin of *I. Florentina* is unknown; it is probably derived from *I. Pallida*; it is only a garden hybrid like *Irises Flavescens*, *Sambucina*, *Plicata*, etc.

I. Albicans originated in Yemen. We find it naturalized everywhere

*Reprint.

that the Moors have passed. They had the custom of planting it in their cemeteries. In Herault between Agde and Cette we see thousands of plants of it. It is common in the south of Spain, in Portugal, in North Africa and the Balearic Islands. Albicans is frequently confused with Florentina. Nevertheless they are easily distinguished from each other by the following characteristics: the flowers of Albicans are of an almost pure white, the standards are quite smooth at the base. In I. Florentina the flowers are more or less tinted grey-blue, the base of the standards is partly covered with quite apparent hairs.* The flowering of Albicans is earlier by about a fortnight than that of Florentina.

I. Germanica alba is rarer in cultivation. From a garden standpoint it is inferior to the two others. It is distinguished from them by its falls, almost always edged, dotted, or lined with lavender blue. Its origin is unknown.

Mr. Dykes has collected near Ragusa in a natural state a variety of I. Pallida with white flowers. I do not know it and I do not believe that it is in commerce.

I leave aside Irises Kashmiriana and Bartoni which have little garden value. Besides their culture is difficult. Under the name of I. Pumila are cultivated a large number of varieties which are almost all I. Chamaeiris and not true Pumilas. Several of these wild varieties have white flowers: Albatre, Eburnea, and Olbiensis Major are the best. They do not generally reproduce themselves by seed. Olbiensis Major, which I have from the old collection of the botanist Hénou, often flowers twice, in spring and in fall.

We have just seen the chief botanical varieties in the Pogoniris group with white flowers, let us now pass to the hybrids.

I have already said that I. Kashmiriana Shelford variety came from a cross between I. Cypriana and I. Pallida Dalmatica, as the seedlings resulting from self-fertilization prove. After the analysis I wanted to make the synthesis by fertilizing I. Cypriana var. Ricardi by I. Pallida Dalmatica. Among the numerous plants which resulted there were found a good proportion of albinos, among others Miss Cavell and Mlle. Jeanne Bel, Mlle. Marguerite Marron, Blanc bleuté, superior to Kashmiriana Shelford variety either by the size of the flowers as in Blanc bleuté or by the pure white of the segments with the contrast of bright orange beard on the falls as in Miss Cavell.

Kashmiriana Shelford variety fertilized by Germanica alba has given seedlings with purple-blue flowers and no albinos. In group of I. Amoena the falls are in general blue and the standards white. Two obtained by Sir Michael Foster, Mrs. G. Darwin and Mrs. H. Darwin, are almost entirely white except the lower part of the falls which is veined with golden yellow and violet in the former and with violet alone in the latter.

La Neige, of Verdier, is the iris of which the white is the purest. The petals are thick and the flowers stand inclement weather well. It would be interesting to try to improve it so as to get flowers of larger size. It seeds with difficulty.

I. Variegata Innocenza has flowers of ivory white except for some purple lines. It is one of the best irises and one of the easiest to grow.

Crosses were tried with success between the German irises and the Pumilas of commerce with a view to obtaining a race intermediate in flowering between the parents. Several of these hybrids have white flowers. Among the best I will mention Ivorine, Bride, and Ingeborg. I have been able to reproduce Ivorine by fertilizing a Pumila Alba of commerce by Florentina. It is to be noted that the Florentina and Ger-

*I have never been able to discover the presence of hairs on the standards. Ed.

manica alba give no seeds when self-fertilized, the pollen is nevertheless fertile.

Apogons or Beardless Iris. *I. Ochroleuca* from Asia Minor is pretty widely distributed under the names *I. Orientalis* and *I. Gigantea*. It has large stalks, often exceeding a metre, and white flowers with a blotch of golden yellow at the base. Its culture is simple, but like most of the Apogons it requires more moisture than the German irises.

I. Sibirica has two varieties with white flowers:

Sibirica Alba and *Snow Queen*; this last is the better. They do well provided they are kept constantly moist during the period of growth. The nature of the soil does not matter to them.

I. Unguicularis, better known under the name of *I. Stylosa*, has given several varieties of white flowers of great merit chiefly on account of their season of bloom, late autumn and the commencement of spring. Like the type they demand protection against cold. I had planted twenty years ago a border of white stylosas; I was somewhat surprised to find several years after stylosas with lavender lilac flowers among them. To ascertain the origin I made sowings of seeds taken from the whites self-fertilized, and as I have said above the proportion of plants with white flowers was only thirty percent. In this species the ovary is buried in the leaves and the seeds are scattered without being noticed.

Irises Kaempferi and *Laevigata* are two neighboring botanical species originating in Manchuria, China and Japan. They have produced hybrids of great beauty of which some have white flowers. I shall mention only among these Crane's Feathers, Silver Stars, White Waterfall, but there are other older ones which also have merit.

Iris Albo-purpurea which they wished to make a botanical species is only a very beautiful variety of *I. Laevigata* of which the standards are white and the falls white blotched and dotted blue.

These Japanese iris required a great deal of water. In northern and central France one can be content with watering them daily during the period of growth. In the south it is necessary to treat them as aquatics. The soil must be free from lime and rich in humus. The rhizomes should not be planted deep, and the soil should be kept covered with 3 or 4 centimeters of water. It is useless to renew it except to make up for evaporation. A little protection is needed in winter, but only where the frosts are severe.

I obtained in 1918 an albino from *I. Foliosa*, better known under the name of *I. Hexagona Lamancei*; according to Mr. Dykes it is already known and he has grown it.

Evansias. This group includes only two varieties with white flowers and no hybrids.

I. Cristata is a little plant from the marshes of North America. Its variety *Alba* requires delicate culture and has no great interest from a horticultural standpoint.

I. Tectorum alba, from Japan, has large white flowers distinguished by a fringed crest on the falls. It is common to all the Evansias and gives them a striking appearance. It is floriferous and easily increased by seeds and by division. It requires a soil somewhat rich in lime and little moisture in winter; it requires protection against heavy frosts. It is hardy in the south of France.

Regelias. In 1913 the firm of Van Tubergen of Haarlem introduced from Turkestan a new iris described by Mr. Dykes in 1919 under the name *I. Hoogiana*. It is dedicated to the brothers Hoog, nephews and successors of Van Tubergen. It is one of the most beautiful Regelias and one of the earliest to bloom. Among the number of plants imported were found some with white flowers. I do not know this variety, but according to M. Hoog it is a delicate grower.

Xiphiums. This section includes quite a number of white flowers. Apart from *I. Xiphiodes Alba* which is not very rare in a wild state in the Pyrenees particularly at Gavarnie the origin of the others is very uncertain. It is probable nevertheless that they come from mutations rather than crosses.

Among the iris *Xiphium*, better known under the name of Spanish iris, the best varieties with white flowers are *Reine Wilhelmine*, *British Queen*, and *Blanc Superbe*; among the iris *Xiphiodes* or English iris *Mont Blanc* and *Mer de Glace*.

Several years ago the firm of Van Tubergen of Haarlem introduced under the name Dutch iris a new race close to the Spanish iris but of which the flowers are notably larger and the blooming early by three



Iris Florentina as a Soil Binder. Sherman R. Duffy, Ill.

weeks. In a sowing of which plants bloomed in 1913 was found one with large pure white flowers with an orange blotch at the base of the falls. Spanish irises as well as Dutch irises require a good deal of heat and a dry soil, while the English irises do not fear the cold but want much more moisture. In the south of France where the air is dry in summer it is difficult to keep these last for several years.

Juno and Reticulata. The group of Junos includes only one iris with white flowers, *Alata alba*. The type is considerably distributed through Portugal and in Algeria; it flowers in November and ought to be grown in pots excepting in the south. The variety *Alba* is rare in cultivation.

We know but a single *Reticulata* with white flowers, *I. Vartani alba*, introduced by Johannes Bacher of Jerusalem under the name *Histrio Alba*. It flowers in December. The flower has a nice odor of bitter almonds.

Like the type it comes from Asia Minor. I have been growing it

outdoors for nine years. In December, 1920, it withstood cold of 8 degrees below zero Centigrade. As with the *Reticulatas* the bulbs should be lifted annually.

NOTE—The above article was translated by Sydney Mitchell in 1920 some years after its first publication in the *Revue Horticole* and there have been marked additions to the list of white irises of hybrid origin but practically no additions to our knowledge of their genetic make-up. It is a field of distinct interest and, personally, I think further investigation will prove that we are dealing with two different groups; one that of the true albino which breeds true as to lack of color, the other what we might call a "hybrid" white where the apparent lack of color is due to two or more color factors acting together. Ed.

Some Irises of Hérault*

W. R. Dykes

I was urged recently to write a short note on the irises of Hérault. I gladly accept this opportunity of suggesting to local botanists and to lovers of the local flora some questions on the iris which seem to me to have a certain interest.

Let us start with the *Pogoniris*, the irises with bearded falls, of which one only, *I. chamaeiris*, is indigenous to the department. This plant is found here and there throughout the waste lands. The color of the flowers varies a good deal, for there are white and yellows and purples in all shades. What is most extraordinary is that in certain places we find only plants with yellow flowers; in others there exist only purple flowered forms, while in some all colors are found. This fact has given rise to several synonyms, as for example *I. lutescens* of Lamarck.

Among the herbarium specimens of this species we find a great deal of difference in the size of the different individuals. Still this difference can be explained if we take account of the different conditions of soil and climate under which these plants grew. Thus for example I gathered among the bushes at the base of Mt. Majour an *Iris chamaeiris* which had at least a height of 25 centimeters, while higher up on the rock itself I found another which was but 10 centimeters. When I grew them side by side in my garden, they flowered at the same time the following year, both with a stem of 15 centimeters high. They were in fact identical.

In our gardens, and particularly in catalogues, this *Iris chamaeiris* is confused with *I. pumila*. This last is indigenous to Austria, Hungary and the south of Russia, but is not found in the wild state in any part of France. Further, it conforms to the habit of all the irises of central Europe, that is to say of the regions where bad frost prevails in winter, for it loses its leaves in autumn and lies dormant until spring. On the other hand the leaves of *I. chamaeiris* make autumn growth and the plant suffers a good deal from cold even in England in our relatively mild winters. Other instances are *I. aphylla* and *I. variegata*, which having lost their leaves in autumn withstand the coldest winters, while *I. germanica*, which keeps its leaves in winter and cannot as a consequence be a German plant, is often damaged by frost in winter and not infrequently is rendered flowerless by spring frosts.

The origin of *I. germanica* still remains obscure. All that is certain is that it does not merit its name. It is rather a plant of the Mediterranean region, or even of a still more southern country. Today it is not found in a wild state but always in places which have been cultivated at a more or less distant epoch. Thanks to its extraordinary vitality it

*Reprint from *Revue Horticole*, 1912, translation corrected and approved July 1921.

can be carried anywhere. Living specimens have shown me that the variety *atropurpurea* which is found in the gardens of Hérault and especially close to the Chateau of Saint-Louis at Beaucaire is also the most common iris at Khatmandu in Nepal where it is described by Wallich under the name of *I. nepalensis*. Further, the variety *Kharput* which is quite common in our gardens and which comes from the place of that name in Asia Minor grows also in enormous masses at Strinagar in Kashmir. Have these irises been taken from the west to the orient or do they come from the orient? Comparison with Himalayan species leads us to believe that they are rather plants of a region where the winters are relatively mild, like the shores of the Mediterranean.

While making, several years ago, a brief stay in the Midi I heard that *I. florentina* was found by thousands at Les Onglous. I went there to see them on the spot, and I was able to convince myself that they were not *I. florentina* but *I. albicans*, Lange. These two irises have a rather curious history and have given rise to endless confusion. Linnaeus himself started this confusion, for in describing *I. florentina*, he cited a plate of *I. ochroleuca*, although he speaks at the same time of a bearded iris. If we take as the type of the species *florentina* the plant of the Botanical Magazine, pl. 671 (1803) we shall find that it is an iris with white flowers with a slight blue tint. The spathes are almost altogether scarious at the time of flowering, and there are always a few hairs on the concave surface at the base of the standards. This plant has quite the appearance of a *germanica*, and in fact it is an albino *germanica* of which there are several forms. For example, the variety *atropurpurea* has a form with white flowers and happily I have succeeded in finding the form with purple flowers of which the so-called *Iris florentina* is the albino. Several years ago I had sent from Florence itself some rhizomes which are used to make orris powder. Among these plants there were *pallidas* and *germanicas* of which one, with purple flowers and slender stems, had all the characteristics apart from color of *I. florentina*.

It is now a question of discovering the origin of *I. albicans* which grows by the million in the sand among the vines at Les Onglous. *I. Albicans* was found by Lange in the neighborhood of Almeria in Spain and has been grown in our garden for at least fifty years. Moreover the late Sir Michael Foster and others have received from different places specimens of this iris. They have come from Sicily, from Cyprus, from Asia Minor, and even from Persia. In fact it is found everywhere where the Moors have settled and particularly in Mohammedan graveyards.

Ten years ago there was introduced from Arabia under the name *Madonna* an iris with blue flowers. When this flowered in my garden I was struck by its resemblance to *I. albicans*. Several months later while working in the herbarium of the Jardin des Plantes at Paris I found specimens of an iris gathered in Yemen by Botta in 1837. Some were white and some blue, and it is not difficult to see that the Mohammedans used this white iris to decorate their cemeteries and that they carried it everywhere with them, in Spain, in Sicily, in Asia Minor.

Let us now pass on to another species of iris, *I. spuria*, which presents very great difficulties to the botanist. It is spread under its different forms from Spain and Algeria as far as Kashmir. The Austrian botanists have tried to prove that the Austrian variety can be distinguished from the French variety, because in it the leaves on the stem are short and allow the internodes to be seen, while in the other the leaves are longer than the internodes which they consequently entirely hide. They have claimed that the plant with long leaves, coming from the neighborhood of Montpellier and Hyeres, was *I. spatulata* Lamarck, while to the other they gave the name of *I. subbarbata*, Joo.

Now at the mouth of the Hérault there is, or perhaps one ought to say there was several years ago, for I looked for it in vain this year, (1), a form of *I. spuria* of which a friend got me a specimen. This plant has flowered with me side by side with another one which I gathered myself in the marshes between Hyères and the sea, and with a third one which represented the Austrian variety. Now the plant from the neighborhood of Agde had the short leaves on the stem which the Austrians claimed for their variety. It was altogether different from that from Hyères.

Another curious comparison! The three iris *chamaeiris*, *pumila* and *spuria* are represented in the Balkans by three others, *Reichenbachii*, *Mellita*, and *Sintenisii*. *I. chamaeiris* differs from *I. pumila* by the perianth tube which is only twice as long as the ovary, while in *I. pumila* the tube is four or even six times as long as the ovary. In *I. chamaeiris* the stem is always apparent, in *I. pumila* it hardly exists. The two species *Reichenbachii* and *Mellita* have exactly the same differences, but while the former have tubular spathes (2), the spathes of the latter have a strongly pronounced keel. What is still more striking is that there is the same difference between *I. spuria* and *I. Sintenisii*. But why have the irises of the Balkans this keel?

Finally it must be said that this year we have been able to prove that *I. Xiphium* still exists between Roquehaute and the sea. It was in full flower on July 1st, rather a late date for this species. The horticultural varieties flower in our gardens in May—June, and one did not expect to find it in bloom at the beginning of July. However we must remember *I. serotina* of Willkoam, which he found in full flower in autumn.

I found also in the herbarium at Edinburgh specimens gathered by Reverchon in the month of August and even in September on the Sierras of Cazorla and Pinar. I grow also an iris *Taitii*, coming from Portugal, which flowered in the middle of the month of July and which is only a variety of *I. Xiphium*. What are the conditions which cause them to flower at so late a date? We do not know.

(1) At the time of my visit they had recently cut the hay, and it is quite possible that the iris is still there (Dykes). It has since been rediscovered by M. Lannes (Dennis). According to M. Cadol it is found also at Salinas de Villeneuve.

(2) There sometimes exists in the *chamaeiris* a slight trace of keel on one of the spathes but it is never strongly marked on both.

Tid Bits, 9th

With the establishment of the policy of four bulletins a year, and with the initiation of a number of special projects certain plans were made that seemed to promise a useful concentration of material on different phases of our subject. For example the January Bulletin is to carry certain routine reports of meetings and exhibitions, to act in short as a historical record of the previous year, while March was to be devoted to Test Garden reports, while July and October issues were left free for special subjects..

Japanese irises, dwarfed bearded, intermediates, of course, immediately offered themselves as subjects for special consideration. Dr. Reed working at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, has done much with the Japanese and showed some fine paintings at the Annual meeting, but such a study is a matter of more than one year so that it seemed advisable to reserve any particularly promising material for the final "monograph". Mrs. Hitchcock's work with the dwarf bearded varieties is still also in preparation as one might say and so I find myself, as editor, bereft of a number of promising subjects for immediate use, and as you people have

been most reluctant to send in full-fledged articles Tid-bits has come to the fore and usurped a major portion of this bulletin.

The last garden season was most unsatisfactory from my point of view as I unfortunately slipped a joint and limped around with all my attention devoted to the possible irregularities of the ground rather than to the beauties of the irises that grew therein. A flying trip to New York, Philadelphia, and Washington was literally excruciating as well as delightful and as for any visiting later in the season, even my own garden is remembered through a haze. I did, however, gather a little moss of interest.

1925 NOTES

My trip to New York early in the season to see the dwarf bearded varieties at the Test Garden and at Mrs. Hitchcock's was well worthwhile and strengthened me in the conviction that there is little opportunity for notable additions to the already bulky list. The true pumilas, practically stemless and rather delicate in constitution, are certainly delightful for the rock-garden but only the varieties *coerulea* and *atroviolacea* seem to be easily obtainable. As to the others almost all the blue-purples are desirable while almost all the yellows are dingy or spotted and the true whites and red-purples are few and far between. Mrs. Hitchcock is slowly checking the nomenclature and arranging similar varieties into groups. There is quite a surprising variation in time of bloom and habit of growth but the range of color is still restricted, more restricted apparently than the descriptions given in the original list of introductions issued by W. J. Caparne in 1901 would lead us to believe. Therefore I look with a wary eye upon novelties among the dwarf bearded irises. *Glee* and *Black Midget*, however, are worthy exceptions and personally I am taking a chance on Mr. Burchfield's more recent listings. I usually agree with his ratings and the descriptions indicate an addition to our well-known range of color.

When we come to a consideration of the "Intermediate" group we are beginning to wonder just what should be included. Time of bloom is the best definition and yet this proves most inapplicable to Californian conditions. With me, at least, *Autumn King* is intermediate in time of bloom and though many write me of its autumn habits it refuses to commit itself in my garden. I doubt if Massachusetts will ever boast two seasons of bloom on anything except dwarf bearded varieties, our summers are apt to be too dry, our fall frosts too early. But like Mrs. Gray, *Allies* and *Autumn King* are proving worthy of trial in every garden where the owner likes September irises. *Allies* has bloomed repeatedly in France but I have, as yet, no American reports. Neither, however, add markedly to our spring effects if only because they give us no distinctive coloring.

Golden Fleece, Caparne 1901, is far from a novelty but as I know it, I find it the best pale yellow of the group. *Primavera* (Mohr) I have seen but once but it was early, very large, and entirely distinct. It does not appeal to me nearly as much as the much smaller *Soledad* (Mohr) as the yellow is less pure and strong but I do not think there is any doubt that it is a new and valuable development. *Firmament* (Groschner) has been receiving such contrary ratings that one wonders if untrue stock is not being distributed under that name. One grower reports it as outstanding and another claims it as identical with an old variety of *I. germanica*. Such an error can occur both innocently and easily and a similar one is apparently now occurring in the case of *Marian Cran*, another variety subject to divers ratings. Mrs. Smith reports that there are two distinct varieties "*Marian Cran*" and "*Mrs. Marian Cran*" the latter a more recent introduction and of distinctly higher quality than the first.



An abnormality, Isolene as a double flower. Sent by Mr. Pudor as photographed in the garden of Mr. Williams, Pasadena, Calif.

As the two are apparently almost identical in color and description it will prove extremely difficult for growers to know which is worth the present high-price.

Of other "intermediates" I have no news. Personally I class the beautiful I. hoogiana in this group and also the wonderful "William Mohr", and the odd toned Carmelo and Bellorio.

My curiosity concerning the Dykes' seedlings Cymbeline, Octavia, etc., still remains unsatisfied.

When it comes to our favorite group my enthusiasm seems to have waned immoderately. I saw very few recent introductions and few reasons to add to my lists of wants. Morning Splendor as I saw it, en masse, in Mr. Shull's garden was very different from my expectations yet still very fine. I had a wonderful stalk of Esplendido which I consider one of the finest of the red-purples altho I really like Ember better owing to its form. Of the twins, Julia Marlowe and Sir Galahad, Sequoiah and L'Aiglon, I prefer the first mentioned just a bit altho it is difficult to make a permanent decision so high is the quality and so slight my preference. Loudoun shows up better indoors than out as does Jean Chevreau but I like them both and am looking forward to comparing them with the newer Gaviota.

The list of new yellows is becoming large and it always amuses me to find so many compared to Shekinah, partly because Shekinah was the first of pallida blood and thus not all necessarily the finest possible but chiefly because it is actually not a very strong yellow. Each year I am surprised anew to find how creamy it is on close examination and then I go off a bit and rediscover the fact that the yellow at the throat seems to give a real impression of warmth and brilliance. I find it extremely difficult to remember that it is not distinctive for its yellow color, nor for its size and branching but only for its combination of yellow tone and pallida characteristics. To find deep yellows and others of low stature compared to it is quite confusing. Naturally Miss Sturtevant has used it a great deal for crossing but among the many seedlings of this strain I think I am safe in saying that none have shown an added depth of color effect. Primrose, Gold Imperial and others of her deeper yellows are of different blood or have but a slight resemblance or infusion of Shekinah itself. Hence I am from Missouri when it comes to the possible distinction of Amber or other seedlings. In time, by combinations with other strains of yellow I expect markedly superior varieties but I doubt very much if any breeder yet has had the time to develop them. In last year's registrations Mr. Wareham included the yellows, Cadmia and Alchemy, this year he has added others while Golden Promise (Neeley), Ophir Gold and Tansy (Andrews) loom over the horizon.

The whites are also becoming numerous. Chartier (Hall), Snow (Bales), Zada (Emigholz), Purity of Lowell (Rounds), and Snow-White, Content and Garden White (Sturtevant) are probably but a few of the newest. As with the yellow selfs the first thing I consider in reading the descriptions is the height as that is the quality we need most in both whites and yellows then, in the former case, I consider parentage for Argentina, Edith Cavell, even Sophronia and Bolingbroke, lovely as they may be, are apt to fail in northern gardens. As varieties of low stature Mrs. H. Darwin, White Knight, Fenella, and the somewhat uncertain Innocenza satisfy me very well and I frankly have seen little promise anywhere of much competition for Miss Sturtevant's Athene, Milky Way, or Taj Mahal in the next range of height. The last has a blemish on its good name due to the high introductory price while the first has been overlooked apparently because it was introduced at too low a price. Yet all three have very fair height (though not four feet) and real quality in

other respects. I suppose that if they were European introductions they would have been widely known long since.

When it comes to less easily evaluated varieties of more usual coloring I am beginning to think that my knowing so many unnamed or un-introduced seedlings has a very bad effect upon my judgment of the recent introductions. Take George Yeld, Lord Lambourne, Tropic Seas, Brun, Gen. Gallieni, even Argynnis, Belisaire, or Simonne Vaissiere and I get no sort of a kick from one of them. Somewhere, sometime I must have seen something equally good in color if not better in that or other respects and unconsciously I have set standards which they do not reach. On the other hand I do get an occasional thrill by the unexpected beauty of some variety that I had previously considered lacking in interest. They are like people. Some are hale fellows, seen and enjoyed at a glance but not improving on further acquaintance, others are just good fellows, nothing thrilling but reliable, while another group need careful cultivation and consideration before they become real friends. And applying this to iris varieties I immediately think of three ladies, Isoline, Queen Caterina, and Phyllis Bliss each of which fills its respective role in my estimation.

Others, however, must be allowed their say as the editor always has first chance at any available space.

From Frank W. Campbell, Detroit.

Two months of dry weather in the fall of 1924 and another six weeks of rainless days this last spring made the iris bloom very freely but with rather shorter stems and smaller flowers than usual. The season of bloom was normal although one day of a 100 degree temperature flopped the standards of almost every variety particularly those of one hybridizer who had used Amas as a parent. Hybridizers should use parents noted for their substance things like Titan, Silverado, Harpalion, Sir George Grey, Mother of Pearl, Veloute, Imperator, Ambassadeur, Brandywine, M. Brun, Asia, Esplendido, Shylock, Aphrodite, Belisaire, Mrs. Hetty Matson, Swazi, Tenebrae, Sweet Lavender.

Afterglow seemed to be the favorite with amateurs on first entering the garden and glancing over the field. Mr. Wareham had a clump of a more apricot colored Afterglow as seen from a distance that greatly appealed to me.

Ambassadeur still leads in the minds of people who are asked "What do you remember best?"

Ann Page, Brandywine, Yvonne Pellettier, Corrida, and Jacqueline Guillot are all light blues but each quite different and very desirable, the latter being the freest flowering light blue I have ever seen.

Anne Bullen is a medium sized, very bright dark bi-color that seemed worthy of a place among the already large family of purple bi-colors.

Antonio with its self purple effect was very fine.

Aphrodite was very much ahead of all other "pinks" though it is too dark to be considered a true pink. There are no others with such an absence of veining and as it is a good seed and pollen bearer it will probably be of much benefit to hybridizers.

Argentina was very similar to Edith Cavell and Kashmir White. Azulado droops more and is somewhat duller and Peronne is similar. Bollingbroke is rounded in outline, pure white, falls drooping decidedly. Milky Way was a very large white with fine shape. It is hard to realize how many different whites there may be, shape making the difference. No large white so far seems to be really a healthy doer in the north although last winter all the above wintered perfectly.

Argynnis with yellow standards and falls of solid, bright chestnut

red without the decided yellow tip of most variegatas stands a fine chance of displacing all of the class of Kathryn Fryer, W. J. Fryer, Loreley, Inca, Iris King, Flammenschwert, and even Citronella. If this last had the falls of Argynnis it would rate 100.

Arjadne is near Asia in color and very free but is of a different and less good shape.

Arlington is to be preferred to Lent A. as the latter changes color with the weather so quickly that it is hard to identify in another garden.

Asla has displaced Sweet Lavender as my favorite iris. Its tawny conservative coloring, immense size, height, and substance all combine in its favor.

Beau Ideal and **Jubilee** are two plicatas of undoubted merit and perfect growing habits. **Princess Osra** is a plicata of a spotted rather than an edged character and of great merit.

Belisaire was an immense study in tan, of very fine substance, lasting well and everybody ordered a plant and then cancelled the order when told the price. I paid a pretty penny to get a plant a year early.

Bellorio was a slaty blue of an entirely new shape, very free blooming over a long period and all visitors wanted it. Apparently it was sterile as both a seed and as a pollen parent.

Canopus, **Cardinal**, **Titan**, **Swazi**, **Yeoman** were all up to expectations.

Corrida is still the best cheap, tall light blue for massing as it blooms over so long a period. **Jacqueline Guillot** is larger and better but still expensive as my original plants cost \$18.00 each.

Dream is still the best cheap pink; tall, free, clear-colored.

Esplendido is a red-purple of fine shape, free flowering and growth.

Franklin Beyson is a rosy mauve of fine mass effect over a long season.

Galete is a larger Ma Mie edged red instead of blue.

Gaviota is a new coloring, white edged cream the cream extending all around the petal on some flowers; medium size, free flowering.

George Yeld is somewhat like Bruno with brighter standards and duller falls and a more pointed shape; desirable.

Harpalion had especially fine shape.

Hussard is a light blue bicolor of good color and habit but similar to many others. It is an example of an iris that a judge of new seedlings would, but should not, encourage as it would be a duplicate of existing good ones.

Imperator is undoubtedly a taller, larger, duller Seminole of good seeding habit.

Isoline is the most popular good iris at flower shows.

Jussieu is a pinker Splendour but a shy flowerer though very fine when it does bloom.

Kurdistan is a dwarf bright purple of long season and useful for hybridizing.

Leonato is undoubtedly the largest light blue I have ever seen.

M. Hubert, **Laurence**, and the darker **Catalosa** are all too much veined and have long strap-shaped segments.

Magnificent (Fryer) bloomed beautifully indoors but my one stalk in the garden was broken.

Majestic leads all light blue bicolors. It is rather contrasty, tall, very large, the falls flaring rather than drooping as the English describe it and hence even better than the description.

Mandarin and **Brun** were similar in shape and somewhat alike in color.

Marocain is undoubtedly the best large purple pumila hybrid.

May Rose, **Wild Rose**, and **Pink Progression** are not unlike, the first rather the color of **Aphrodite** but dwarfier and more veined.

Medrano, **Opera**, **Peau Rouge** and **Rosalba** vied with one another in the dark red group the two last being the best growers and bloomers.

Megas is a purple bicolor of peculiarly massive appearance.

Mlle. Schwartz, **Lady Byng**, and **Ballerine** belong in the same color group though all of different shape.

Mme. Cheri approaches **Belisaire** and both are very fine.

Morwell is a very fine pale blue but subject to rot and poor blooming streaks.

Mrs. Hetty Matson seems to be winning its way as the best purple bicolor though **Lent A.**, **Canopus**, **Arlington** are all close to it.

Ochracea still leads in its gold and blue combination.

Princess Beatrice still leads as the cheapest light blue of real merit but is a shy flowerer.

Prof. Seeliger was small but very colorful and extremely free.

Shylock was an immense pale violet of fine substance and very free blooming habit for so large a flower.

Silverado has wonderful substance and fine shape.

Simonne Walslere on small plants had large well-balanced blooms with fine horizontal falls.

Solana, **Yellow Hammer**, and **Virginia Moore** are all desirable yellow selfs and **Yellow Hammer** is very large but dwarf.

A group of 400 **Souvenir de Mme. Gandiehan** was a wonderful sight.

The Sorcerer is a very late iris of similar coloring.

Speed must have won its name because its standards flop even more easily than those of **Lord of June**.

Sweet Lavender should be in every garden for its shape only though color and freedom of bloom are also fine.

Tenebrae did so poorly for years that I forgot it but this year it sent up enormous stalks of perfectly shaped flowers of blue-brown tone that have just hung persistently before my eyes ever since.

Zwanenberg is still my most unique, earliest and longest blooming variety.

Some ninety other varieties were listed as discards or duplicates from my 1924 purchases in Europe and America, the Californian seedlings showing the best average of advance and the Perry and Denis seedlings being very noticeable in their duplication of already existing varieties. Lack of space prevents listing the faults of these ninety, the expense of which will have to be distributed among the good ones—a reason why a dealer hates to see new introductions turn out commonplace.

Reichenbachii bloomed very late for two years and very early this year. I can't understand it at all. **Ensata**, **sintensis**, and **bulleyana**, all bloomed just before the much neglected spuria group and were lovely. **Spuria Canari** is very desirable and the variegata species from Hungary was most interesting to visitors.

From J. C. Wister

Another Iris season has come and gone and all Iris growers are comparing notes as to what varieties they liked and what varieties they can discard. With the immense number of varieties now available it becomes more and more important for all gardeners to drop not only the inferior sorts but also many good kinds which have been superseded

by better ones. In this connection I was interested in Mrs. Jacobs' remark at the Harrisburg Iris Show that "the good is the enemy of the best"; certainly it is true in Iris, that there is no longer room for merely good varieties when the really finer sorts are available as they are today at reasonable prices. This condition is strikingly different from the state of affairs five years ago or even three years ago, when the fine new varieties were held at extortionate prices. Today, with the exception of a few varieties of the Dominion race, the very finest Iris can be procured for a few dollars or at the most \$5 or \$10 a piece, and many varieties which are older but still unsurpassed can be had for 50 cents or a dollar.

In reviewing the season it is well to begin with the Dwarf Bearded varieties which never seem to come in for their fair share of popularity. It is true that most of them are insignificant as individual flowers, but I know of no other plant which gives better color masses for the front edge of a garden border than these dwarf varieties, and can mention among the best Statellae, Orange Queen and Eclipse. Among novelties I am glad to call attention to Mrs. McKinney's Black Midget and Glee, both of them charming, and the latter very conspicuous and blooming over a long season. The Millet varieties that I saw in Europe in 1922 still do not seem to be widely distributed, but there are some beautiful colors among them and they deserve greater recognition than they have had.

There is little new to be said about Intermediate Iris. The varieties sent out by Caparne and by Goose & Koenemann years ago still dominate, and thoroughly satisfactory sorts among these are Charmant, Dauphin, Diamond, Dolphin, Fritjof, Prince Victor and Queen Flavia. I find it convenient to group with them also such Germanicas as Florentina and Kochi, and the early blooming Cengialti hybrids like Bluet, King George V and Saphid. This latter, a novelty from Mr. Dykes, is a most charming variety and is almost an exact counterpart of Gold Crest, but blooms at least two weeks earlier, and its coloring is particularly charming in the early evening light. I have mentioned before also Soledad as the best yellow in this section. I have some of Mr. Dykes' Alberti hybrids and hope they will prove worthy additions to this group, but they have not yet bloomed for me.

With the Intermediate Iris bloom also the Oncocylus hybrids, most of which were raised by Sir Michael Foster, it seems strange that plants that have been in commerce as long as these have are so little known. Many Iris growers seem to regard them as impossible to grow but I believe this to be a mistaken idea. With me at least they flourish in the most exposed situations, with practically no care, and while they do not make the rampant growth that is seen in other sections, most of them grow fairly well. Of the group I think I like Dilkush, Dorak, Giran and Parvar the best. The stock of some of the other varieties still seems to be extremely scarce. The longest bloomer in this group and also the best grower is Zwanenburg.

The early spring brought the Tall Bearded Iris out about two weeks earlier than usual in Philadelphia and cool weather held them in bloom a long time, so that I had unusual opportunity to make notes and comparisons of many varieties, and have become more and more convinced that we must cut down severely on many of the older varieties as not worth growing when new sorts are so much better. It is however, hard to pick out particular varieties out of a large collection. Afterglow and Alcazar as usual attracted great praise in my garden, and for the first time I have Ambassadeur in great enough quantity for it to be appreciated. At its present price it is a bargain and no gardener should be with-

out it. Angelo bloomed for the first time and made a fine impression; and Asia was as fine as last year. An old variety, Aurora, which I had almost decided to discard, bloomed so well that it became one of my favorites. I have had it a number of years but never before appreciated its lovely pink color and its splendid height. The new Balaruc competed with Fenella and White Queen, and it is hard to say which of these new whites will in time become the favorite, but this year's showing, one of Miss Sturtevant's seedlings, Athene, which is by no means new, was better than any of them.

I had one flower on Belisaire and liked it. It is a large Mme. Blanche Pion and should take its place. Belladonna again proved earliest of the Tall Bearded varieties, with the exception of the Cengialti varieties which I have now classed with the Intermediates. I don't like it especially but think it is exceedingly valuable for its earliness and I hope that in time Mr. Koehler will give us a whole race of early varieties.

At the tail end of the season I was surprised by some fine blooms on Black Prince, the first time this very difficult variety has bloomed for me since 1916, and when it is good it is certainly very, very good.

Dominion did not bloom for me but I had five spikes on one clump of Bruno which lasted in bloom from May 14th to June 2nd and were greatly admired by all visitors. Bruno apparently has made up its mind to grow, which is more than I can say for Dominion, Duke of Bedford or Swazi. I had a nice flower also on Cardinal which while not as weak as the weakest, is not as strong as Bruno.

Mention of these seedlings of Mr. Bliss' naturally brings to mind Citronella, which bloomed well for me. It surpassed any variety I know for fine yellow standards, but its falls are so blotched that I do not care for it at all. Susan Bliss bloomed well with these and is certainly one of our best pink varieties. It is still too expensive for general planting, as is its greatest rival Marion Cran, but prices on these will surely drop soon as they have on other English importations.

My novelties from Perry attracted great attention. Mr. Sturtevant has criticized some of them as being too close to existing sorts, but I do not agree with him and think that Lady Charles Allom and Duke of York are distinctly worth growing, both being good growers and free bloomers over a long season and making charming masses in the garden. Robert Wallace was as fine as I had seen it in England, a large glorified Archeveque on a taller stem.

Of new German varieties Flammenschwert stands out as probably the best yellow and brown variegata in commerce, and Eckesachs and Rheintraupe are very fine. I can recommend these without hesitation but am a little bit uncertain about other G. & K. novelties. The best of the new ones seems to be Rheingauperl, which I saw at Mr. Donahue's.

Coming back to American varieties, Mr. Farr's Mary Orth and Mildred Presby again stood out; the latter is by far the finest white and purple Amoena, leaving Dalila and others of that type far behind. It is a splendid grower and makes a fine mass.

An outstanding American novelty is Odoaloc, raised by Mr. Andrews but I believe not yet in commerce. It is a tall pallida of splendid Princess Beatrice form but having a good deal of pink in the flower. It was I think the finest new variety that I have seen this year and I am most optimistic over its future.

Miss Sturtevant's novelties are of course many and among the finest of them were Carcanet, Cygnet, Flutterby, Gold Imperial, Glowing Embers and Old Ivory. Most of these have been in commerce several

years but are very little known and deserve prominent places in our gardens. I do not know her new varieties well enough to speak about them until I have seen them in bloom another season or two, but among them are many of wonderful charm.

At the New York Test Garden Mrs. McKinney's My Lady again stood out as the tallest plicata. To be seen there also were a number of Perry's new varieties, among them Titus and Eden Philpotts, while among Bliss novelties not yet in commerce the most outstanding was Pioneer. Sir Arthur Hort's Shylock seemed the best of his novelties and as it blooms here is finer than Leonato, which was by far the best in England.

A number of Mr. Weed's seedlings bloomed at the Test Garden in Weston, Mass. The finest of them was Western Dream which is a flower somewhat between Queen Caterina and Mary Orth and very beautiful. His Ruby Queen is a good reddish variety but Dianto and Rugajo do not please me as much, although this of course is entirely a matter of personal taste in color. At the same garden I saw Mr. Brailor's Gray Friar but was not impressed with it, but some of M. Mohr's things again stood out well, especially Conquistador, Ramona, and Silverado.

I saw little that was new to me of Mr. Fryer's things. Of them I think Grace Kimball and R. R. Smith are the best.

I saw several of the Cayeux varieties at Mr. Donahue's. Salonique and Eclairer were fine, but Fedora I did not like at all.

Mr. Shull's varieties did not bloom for me but I saw Morning Splendour and Nimbus in fine condition at the Harrisburg show, and they again seemed to me of the very highest quality. At this show also was a splendid vase of Mrs. Cumbler's Mary Barnett, about which I have written before. It is a Pallida Dalmatica type but with a distinctly more orange beard, which lightens up the whole flower and makes it exceedingly beautiful. At Harrisburg also I saw Mrs. Hamilton's Kipponah, to which I had given an honorable mention last year when it was exhibited under number. It is not a large flower but very distinct in coloring, and will I hope soon be on the market.

I attended four Iris shows during the season and in each one the quality was first class, but in all of them the range of varieties was rather small, seeming to show that many of these fine varieties about which I have been writing are not yet widely distributed. It is discouraging to go to a show to judge and to have to spend time judging which is the worst of a lot of old junk like Honorabilis, Boismilon, Amabilis, Carnot, Malvina and many other old worthless varieties which should have been put on the rubbish heap years ago. Apparently even the members of the Iris Society who are enthusiastic enough to cut and display their flowers at shows have not yet reached the point of parting with these varieties, and until they are willing to do so it is needless to expect much improvement in their gardens. It was inevitable that our shows a few years ago should have been filled with these varieties but by now the widespread popularity of the good standard sorts should have resulted in the elimination of worthless ones, and I hope that such discarding will proceed at a more rapid rate in the future now that the good ones are just as cheap as the bad ones. It was discouraging also at the shows to see the confusion in nomenclature resulting from lack of good descriptions, particularly as the mistakes were often so obvious. In one exhibition some fine stalks of Prosper Laugier were exhibited under the name of White Knight, which was about the worst mistake I have seen. It seems strange how anybody could have put such a name on a flower of the deep coloring of Prosper

Laugier without realizing that there must have been a mistake somewhere.

These random notes have, of course, touched only on a few of the varieties that are worth while. I can only again urge our members to study the White List and the Black List published last winter, and to try to improve their varieties accordingly. We are in a transitional stage in Iris development and it is foolish for most gardeners to try to keep up with the slight improvements year by year, but they can at least get some of the good varieties and enjoy them while waiting for the highest priced ones to become cheaper.

As I have visited gardens this spring I find everywhere that the Iris is not appreciated enough as a garden flower, and that gardeners overlook its ease of culture and hardiness, and its great use for massing in garden display. I hope that the Iris Society will more and more encourage development in this respect so that the Iris may take its true place among the spring flowers in gardens large or small.

From E. O. James, California

Ambassadeur, 90; Asia, 93; Avalon, 93; Balboa, 85; Ballerine, 90; B. Y. Morrison, a shade under 90; Carthusian, too low in the symposium rating of 81; strong as the competition is in this color, I should rate it as high as Caterina. Cecile Minturn, 75—a free bloomer but lacks distinction. Clement Desormes, a shade under 90, lacking refinement to warrant that figure, but of ideal shape, in a shade of color that has small competition, and an excellent doer. Conquistador, in the high 80's; strong competition in color, and the one fault of lying down in wet weather, are demerits against its otherwise excellent points. Coronado, well above 85. Crusader, under our conditions, well deserves 90. Dulcinea hovers around that same mark; and Esplendido the same. E. H. Jenkins, one of the best; rich in color, an excellent doer. Isis, between 80 and 85. Lord Lambourne, the same. Mady Carriere, 80 or better; its dependable performance, with (to my taste) a pleasing pastel effect, appeals. Magnifica should, I think, recede a little below the 90's; even a slight demotion here is no dispraise. Marian Mohr, rated by its behavior locally, is a 90 iris—thrifty, free, and of the choicest refinement of tone and color. Maxime Cornu is far below 80, and should hardly have been introduced. Menetrier, likewise; Sherbet is better. Mme. Durrand, under our conditions, 90 or better; it is a pity that it does not accept all climates. M. Austin and M. Aymard—why add to the list of mediocrities? Opera: the symposium figure is just about right. I should raise both Pallida Aurora and Pal. Princess Royal to 80. Prospero, in the high 80's. San Gabriel, the merest shade under 90; its one fault of lying down in wet weather is a demerit; but it so far surpasses other irises in its color tone as to be outstanding. Santa Barbara: I incline to rate it a mere shade under 90. Silverado, 85. Sunset, better than 85. Suzanne Autissier, well above 85. Sweet Lavender, perhaps 80, though I was somewhat disappointed in this. Zouave, hardly in competition with Mme. Chobaut and Mary Garden.

From Sherman R. Duffy, Illinois

The practical value of the iris as a soil binder has been utilized along the banks of the Illinois river for many years, the variety employed being I. Florentina. It has been holding a 60 foot stretch of river bank safely for me against ice and floods for 25 years when shrubs and trees are torn up by the roots and carried away. It holds the earth with its matted rhizomes and thick network of fibrous roots against the water and the ice slides over it where its weight takes whole sections away where taller growth gives it a leverage.

When my family bought our present homestead 35 years ago with a river frontage of about 300 ft, I found a large clump of Florentine iris clinging to the top of a dry wall and against the sandstone ledge which terminates the property with a sheer drop of 40 ft. to the river. This wall had been laid up in a break in the rock where ice lodged badly in the spring, sometimes during gorges the river rising forty or fifty feet in a few hours.

I saw flood times and ice gorges go over these irises the first spring and little expected to see anything more of them but when the water receded after covering them for a week, there they were, some of the



Iris at the Lawn Edge, Thomas Fendall, Leesburg, Va.

leaf ends shaved off, many of the rhizomes cut and scratched but the clump intact. I began propagating from this clump until I had a row established along the exposed front. It is there today, now several feet wide, and it has not been touched since it was planted 25 years ago. Each spring it gives a beautiful display of white, seen at its best from across the river as it is inaccessible from our side.

With this iris binder established to hold the sandy soil, we built a concrete retaining wall behind it to support a wire fence as life became altogether too hectic with its frequent "Man overboard" alarms

and fishing over adventurous children out of the depths. This solid band of iris now reaches from the retaining wall to the rock and no flood steals any of that bank.

I have endeavored to trace the history of this iris and find that it undoubtedly had been where I found it for fifteen or twenty years, as far back as I could trace the history of the place. "It has always been here" some of the oldest settlers told me who had taken up their abode along the river when they had blockhouses at certain intervals for fear of Indian uprisings.

It seems likely that it was first brought in by the French settlers who were the pioneers in that part of the country and whose descendants still are there.

Every few years this iris shows piebald bloom. This was one of the years. The white blooms which give a fine effect backgrounded by the water in their pied years show fleckings and stripings of purple. Occasionally a whole standard or fall is purple. While the individual bloom is interesting and mysterious in its mottling for there seems nothing to account for its sudden variation, the effect of the snowy bank of bloom is spoiled.

Anna Farr, so far as I am concerned, is a cryptogamous plant. It belongs with the ferns. A clump four years old and three feet across, healthy and vigorous gives never a bloom. It will bloom next year or the broad bosom of the Illinois will bear it away.

Cluny set a record in my garden this year of 100 per cent fertility for one flower stem, eleven flowers and eleven seed pods. The fertilization was the work of the bees as I have never used it as a seed parent. The entire plant seeded very freely. As O. M. Pudor lists seed of Cluny at ten cents each it looks like a valuable plant to me.

ODD NOTES

First for a brief note concerning Crimson King from Miss Hill, one of our new members in Los Angeles and much interested in Mr. Milliken's work as the new proprietor of the Dean Iris Gardens.

"I have scattering bloom on Crimson King all the year around, with a really profuse flowering season from about the middle of March to the middle of April, and again in the latter part of September and during most of October. In the spring the color is deeper and richer, the stem has only one branch and in general there are but four flowers to the stalk. In the fall there is good deal more red in the purple though the color is not as rich and the stalk averages six inches taller and is more branched and carries more blossoms, averaging about seven but often with as many as ten. One rhizome last week (Oct. 20th) had a branch just at ground level, another six inches higher the whole bearing fifteen blooms." "One of Mr. Williamson's seedlings, No. 27 is also flowering this fall."

Mrs. William Crawford in a letter of the same date mentions cutting the last stalk (the balance were frosted) of Autumn King in Indiana.

An old report from Miss Ricketts, Secretary of The Garden Flowers Society of Indianapolis, gives a good description of the garden of Mrs. Charles J. Lynn one of the loveliest iris gardens in the city:

"Using the pastel shades of iris as a painter using his colors, contrasting them against the rich greens of lawn and shrubbery borders, Mrs. Lynn achieves garden pictures of satisfying beauty. Irises pallida, Dalmatica, Flavesceus, and Queen of May, in light clear shades of lavender, cream and pink, formed a color scheme in the drive way border that was much admired. Mrs. Lynn likes to plant Celeste, one of the

daintiest of the blue irises, with pink and white Weigelia. We like it too. On either side of the driveway in back of the house, lie two long, broad flower beds, displaying the grace and beauty of the Iris with old-fashioned hardy flowers. Two Iris in this planting stood out like exclamation points—Iris **Isoline**, with its massive blossoms of copper and lilac-rose, and Iris **Alcazar**, a brighter and coarser, **Lent A. Williamson** flower. Next **Amas** caught the eye,—and then, ones head was fairly in danger of twisting off as one tried to look at all the rest at once. Next the specimen rows claimed attention. Just beyond the rose trellis and the garden gate, bordering the brick path through the vegetable garden, Mrs. Lynn has planted single clumps of each of her fine Iris. Here we found vivid **Seminole**, quiet **Quaker Lady**, dainty **Wyomissing**, brilliant **Iris King**, and a number of our favorites. The very finest, or rather those of greatest renown, were not yet in bloom. **Ambassadeur**, **Queen Caterina**, and **Lord of June** just showed enough color in the bud to intrigue our fancy and make us resolve to come again when they were in bloom.

All these beauties were not discernible at a glimpse nor during the progress of a quiet stroll, but, owing to the fitful showers, were seen at intervals, and by small groups who bundled in rain-coats and sheltered under umbrellas, hastened from the porch whenever the rain lessened. Meanwhile, the garden meeting was in progress on the roomy front porch of Mrs. Lynn's delightful Old-English home. In attendance 'round the speaker, Mr. Franklin B. Mead, of Iriscrest, Fort Wayne, who motored down from Fort Wayne with Mrs. Mead, were the enthusiastic Iris fans of the garden club who listened with great enjoyment to the discussion of Iris as they grow for Mr. Mead. In his garden "Iriscrest" Mr. Mead has one of the finest and most complete collections of Iris in this part of the country. Practically all of the good old standard varieties are represented as well as all of the newer novelties from Europe which are available. Among the newer ones he recommended for our Indiana gardens were **Ambassadeur**, **Magnifica**, **Medrano**, **White Knight**, **Mme. Schwartz**, **Madame Cheri**, **Avalon**, **Asia** and **Queen Caterina**."

"Flavescens which never before seeded for me bore a number of pods despite the rainy season." Sherman R. Duffy.

Dr. Ayres notes a few points of interest:

"The show was much too early though it was too late to change the date and I cut many flowers in bud the day before, put them on the sun porch and turned on a large electric heater which threw on a fine spray of both heat and sunshine. Within six hours most of them were ready for exhibition."

"Bull Durham" bags not only protected my seed-pods from the Verbena Bud Moth but from a late frost which turned many pods a dark green.

"Six or more yellows derived from Shekinah crossed with Sherwin Wright, Aurea, etc., bloomed but were no taller or larger than Shekinah. A seedling of Isoline (the only one from four seeds) almost reproduced Magnifica.

"The most exciting thing I saw was Cacique (Berry). I had never seen a description of it so had no idea what it would be. There was a great mass of a fine up-standing variety with dozens of blossoms of rich blackish purple velvet." Miss Hinda Hill.

Mr. J. N. Giridlian, 884 So. Marengo Ave., Pasadena, Calif., is making photographic records of irises both in black and white and in natural colors and is also carrying on experiments as to proper planting depths.

"The show of iris lasted quite a month and was over just before

Xmas. We have had 5 inches of rain since New Year's (most unusual) and the iris are beginning to flower again. At present (January) they are just purple and white ones (probably *germanica* and *Florentina*. Ed.) and one clump of *Fontarabie* and odd ones that are not sufficient to make a show," Mrs. Joyce, Kenya Colony, So. Africa.

"In 1921 I set Amas with pollen from a plant I believe to be *Trojana* which was given to me without a name. I had several good pods of seed. Some of the seedlings from this cross flowered in 1923 and others in 1924. Of necessity, from the parentage, they were all bicolor purples, some of them being good plants but not distinct enough to swell the growing list of seedlings. I have now a nice batch of seedlings reset from pollen of such irises as *Alcazar*, *Canopus*, *Magnifica*, *Anne Page*, etc., showing that the seedlings from *Amasx trojana* were themselves very fertile." Captain Troup's report seconds the findings of Dr. Stout who lists Amas as feebly fruitful as a pod parent. Captain Troup, however, goes on to add a bit of history concerning

Iris Ranikhet:

"By some mistake the *Iris Ranikhet* collected by my mother has got the date 1910 against it instead of 1914. Further, owing to the cutting down of names by the American Joint Committee, "*Ranikhet*" is non-descriptive, it should read *Iris kashmiriana Ranikhet* as it is merely the blue flowered form of *I. kashmiriana* in the same way that *Madonna* is the blue form of *I. albicans*. In both these cases the white form has been described as the wild species whereas it is more than likely as mentioned by Dykes that they (the white forms) were distributed through being planted in Mohamedan graveyards and thus came to be considered as typical whereas the blue is the original wild color. Here I find *Ranikhet* a splendid doer as it stands our late dull wet summer even better than *I. albicans*. The rhizome of *Ranikhet* was brought home by my mother Mrs. M. E. Troup from India, Xmas, 1914. She had found it growing in abundance in the Brewery garden at *Ranikhet*, *Kawaon*, about 7000 ft. up in the Himalayas and was very taken with its color and fragrance. It first flowered in England in 1917."

Mr. Wister and I have found it slow to become established as is the case with *Kashmiriana* and I remember no report of its having bloomed.

Notes on Beardless Irises.

Mr. Hubbard has grown many of the Siberian varieties and adds a bit to my inadequate listing in Bulletin 11:

"Mrs. Perry is white, washed with lavender pink, the flower smaller and the stalk lower than that of Perry's Blue. With me Perry's Blue is the tallest of the lot, 3 ft. 6 in., and Mrs. Sanders the most free-blooming. Mrs. Gray Hill is my second choice as it is nice, a clear "celestial" blue. I have bloomed also Peggy Perry, and Perrys Pigmy."

Mr. Shreve mentions T. Smith, Daisy Hill, Newry Co., Down, Ireland as another source of apogon seed.

A white form of *I. versicolor* has been found in Rhode Island and registered under the name of *Stella Main*. Stock is still very scarce and from report I doubt if the plant is going to be of great garden value.

Dr. Reed, on a visit to the garden this spring, delighted us with the identification of *I. clarkei* which has proved markedly distinctive in but one respect,—the intense yellow tone of the sturdy new foliage. The plant is most thrifty and, in earliest spring, very marked as to leaf color. The height is about 24-39 inches, the flowers intermediate in form, and size between *orientalis sanguinea* and *versicolor* and if it were not that it has a certain tone of blue (not, unfortunately, comparable to Perry's

Blue) one would hardly pick it out from a mixed planting of hybrid *orientalis* seedlings.

Dr. Miyazawa was also a welcome visitor even though his English was much broken and we had no bloom to exhibit. Although we in America are attempting to reduce the number of varieties and to straighten out the present confused nomenclature, we must expect a greatly increased number of imported varieties and an ever increasing consideration of Japanese nomenclature.

Dr. Anderson of the Shaw Botanical Garden is making an extensive study of the native forms of *I. versicolor*. He has spent much time in visiting various colonies in bloom and recording accurately the range of variations of height, foliage, stamens etc., in each colony. After extensive tests he finds that the extent of the color splotch or reticulation at the haft, the length of stamen, and the ratio of width to length of segments are the most reliable characters in recording the behaviour of plants from different localities. Although the western form tends to differ somewhat from the eastern (possibly enough to deserve specific rank) the only marked differences are found to be a gradual diminution of size to the northward in respect to almost all characters. This study is far from finished and he hopes to develop definite data as to just what a species is.

He told me also that an Alaskan form of *I. setosa* might be obtained from J. P. Anderson, Florist, Juneau, Alaska at probably \$2.00 each.

Convenient Planting for the Nursery and Show Garden.

Mrs. Louise Kellogg who has recently opened "Over-the-Garden-Wall" in West Hartford, Conn., recently wrote in about the re-arrangement of her plantings:

"I have to re-arrange all my exhibition beds they are a hopeless jumble of prices and varieties. Do you think it worthwhile to try to re-plant in groups according to the names of the introducers? One might as well have some plan and color schemes are beyond me for such a quantity. To the average customer, it will mean little (except a little education) but to the few who know more about them it would seem to be most acceptable."

Now here is a perfectly good question and, as is often the case, the answer depends wholly upon individual needs. At the N. Y. Test Garden our first planting was a hopeless jumble as the plants were put in as they arrived and we had no means of knowing what might be contributed. In 1924 the alphabetical garden was started and already it has been necessary to make additional plantings for the new introductions of each year. That briefly is the trouble with any arbitrary plan, the list of varieties is not stationary and new accessions are immediately out of place—no one can foretell how many of them will come in the A. section or the white group, among the Bliss introductions or the variegatas and hence space cannot well be set aside to receive them. It was, of course, possible, to plan the new color planting at New York, purely because we were using a restricted number of varieties and knew just what stock might be available.

For purposes of record the alphabetical planting supplemented by yearly additions is undoubtedly the best, and at least 20-40% of the time it can be up to-date.

For comparative purposes, however, such a planting is as hopeless as a mere jumble, and color grouping is theoretically the best arrangement. In general such a planting is working already at Cornell but the more it is carried down into detail, as was the case in our pub-

lished classification, the more unsatisfactory it will prove. Even though two people might agree as to the color of a variety we have no knowledge as to whether the color remains the same under varying conditions of climate and atmosphere and the slightest of changes may switch the variety into a neighboring class. Despite this difficulty, however, even an attempt at color grouping is a big help in placing and judging a variety previously unknown. The whites, yellow selfs, and even the true amoenas are easily grouped and the relative merits of the varieties open to study. Descriptions may have led us to consider Citronella and Chasseur for example as comparable to Shekinah but when seen together one immediately puts them in three distinct classes.



Iris chrysographes (from Horticulture)

A botanical classification is still used in France and, from report, proves little less confusing than the color grouping but I know of no such planting in this country as applied to named varieties of the Bearded Irises.

Grouping together all the introductions of one grower I find of extreme interest but of restricted value. In this case we are judging the grower rather than the individual variety, always a wise precaution with an unknown breeder, but of less and less value as the years go by if only because we forget to allow for the fact that in 1909, 1914, 1918, or 1924 there were very different standards of judgment. Without the work of Sir Michael Foster, there might have been no great development of irises but it does not follow that all his varieties are still top notch.

In a similar way grouping by date of introduction is of historical rather than practical value and as to price grouping, if applied to novelties, varieties would have to be moved so often that they would never have a chance to bloom.

In our garden we combine a number of groupings. The main planting is the "catalog" garden, alphabetically arranged, and planted each June-July for the listing and sales of the following year. Next in importance come the trial beds, where Miss Sturtevant's "try-outs" are arranged by color for careful comparison and where the originations of others are grouped by origin. Then there are seed-beds of various years, a bed or two of intermediates, varieties priced at \$.25, \$.50 or \$1.00. many, many places where irises are planted for simple color effects with other perennials. Plicatas and lavender selfs tend to congregate with the Oriental poppies, red-purples and yellows in a garden of their own and so on.

Black List Discussion.

It is not surprising that objections to the Black List are more numerous than complaints of the White List and certainly some varieties are much beloved. The fact remains however that we have far more varieties than we need and as it seems rather difficult to prevent new introductions, we may succeed in cutting out some of the also-rans. What we should keep in mind is that a large number of irises are sold by the general nurserymen and that such a list rarely includes many of the good varieties. Slowly the Black List will influence this source of supply and tend to raise the average standard of all irises offered for sale. It is clearly better for the beginner to start with Alcazar, Reine Nixé, Dalmatica, and Iris King than to waste time or space on Gypsy Queen, Honorabilis, and others. One familiar with varieties is in a position to make his own selections. I think that the more I see of varieties the more I value some of the poorly rated ones and yet I and the other members of the A. I. S. form but a small minority of the people that plant irises and it is this ever-growing group of garden lovers that we should direct and help.

Mrs. Arbuckle writes "How glad I am that the "Directors" are not able to do more than advise that we "refrain". I must protest that I do not like this wholesale way of black-listing—possibly about half of these two hundred should never have been named, and among them novelties. Many are bearing several names and then there are a host of yellow and browns that are so much alike that you can never remember which is which. An iris should have personality enough so that if once seen one can remember it. I am quite sure that the Directors never saw my Barbara, nor my Mikado either, at least as I have seen them. Then too I could never see a thing wrong with Speciosa (which? Ed.) Savign-tan, Leda, Tunisie, and Mist. I have a very artistic friend who just

dotes on Jean Sisley. I have been wanting her to join the A. I. S., but if she finds out that they have black listed her favorite I fear that it is all off. Really you know I feel that when an iris has lived as long as Honorabilis that it has earned the right to live if anyone wants it."

From Mr. Stewart Johnson. "If I rightly understand that Tendresse is the same as La Tendresse (It is. Ed.) I certainly want to put in my protest. I have every iris almost that rates above 84 and many below that but there is none I appreciate more than Tendresse in mass. It blooms early and it blooms late and its foliage is fine when the bloom is gone. It stands almost as high as any I have and, as a common iris, is far superior to many that are admitted. I can't understand what the committee was thinking of."

From Mr. Gersdorff the Chairman of the Committee on Registrations who is constantly reporting that no one sends in the names to be registered.

"Loute may not be all that is desirable but certainly it is better than several in the White List. It is of distinctive coloring, large, and of good form. Modest Guerin in my estimation is one of the very best of the yellow bicolors. Personally I like Apollo and Sylvester but like Iroquois and Van Geerti they do not sell so I judge it is best to discard them.

"As to the White List, Australis and Neglecta surely do not belong here but in the Black List. The first is too like Clio and Tineae while Neglecta is too small and poorly formed.

"Naturally being a thorough iris fan I will withhold the following from sale and actually destroy them: Aymard, Baxter, Cleopatre, Iroquois, Tendresse, Van Geerti, Vondel and also Loute and Modest Guerin if they remain Black Listed."

On Policies

As usual there are many interesting comments as to the flood of novelties and our standards of judging. In sending new registrations Mr. Murrell writes from England "No, I do not think that we have had a copy of the 1924 registrations—I could not possibly have overlooked such a deluge!! There is some mistake in the old proverb which says that we cannot have too much of a good thing. We really are getting too many irises, and so far as my limited experience goes there are a great number sent out, on both sides of the Atlantic, which might very well have been burnt as they flowered the first time.' I am quite willing to admit that I am also among those who have sinned, but I am reforming now, and this season we are only sending out three varieties, raised by three different breeders.

"I have great hopes of our Iris Society's Trials at Wisley which will be judged next year. With luck we shall be able to condemn a great many unwanted sorts, and also, perhaps, get some sort of uniformity in catalogs, which will be all to the good. At the present time in Europe every grower has a list of his own, and offers in every hundred sorts catalogued fifty which no other grower lists. This only confuses the amateur.

"It might interest you to know that this season two varieties you are interested in have excelled themselves—Dream and Avalon, both most gorgeous things. I have seen nothing better from America than these."

Mr. G. B. Tuthill of Sioux Falls, So. Dakota, emphasizes a point that we collectors are apt to forget and that is that the great mass of iris planting is and always will be done by the garden lover of modest means.

"The point that I wish to convey is that 90% of the buyers of irises

and other perennials are people who may think that they care for the name but eventually lose it and who are only interested in satisfactory flowers not names. That same 90% do not care anything about the rating if the flowers are nice. They do, however, object to paying \$2.00 a piece for a plant when they can find something as satisfactory for 15 or 20 cents. If we start out to eliminate all the older varieties because we find something much better of practically the same color we are eliminating the 90% of buyers and plant lovers because they not only can not but will not pay the \$2.00—The thing that the American Iris Society should keep in mind is that there are two classes of buyers,—one the connoisseur who is looking for something new and the other the farmer's or laborer's wife who just loves flowers and wants a number of different kinds. We could have two classifications: one of the newer and higher priced and one of the substantial older varieties that anybody can have and grow."

Of course this came in response to the White List and we might reply that, given time and inclination, fine varieties can be listed at \$.15 a root to take the place of the discards and that such a replacement of varieties is necessarily a losing proposition, at the start, for the grower. Miss Tinkham of Springfield, Mass., seconds Mr. Tuthill's point quite neatly:

"I wish that more credit would be given to the older varieties for what they will stand. One of the characteristics most widely emphasized has been that the iris was very easily grown. But what of the ones that are receiving all the praise of the present day? Are they receiving any demerits for the fact that they are too temperamental to grow well in many gardens? According to suggested ratings probably not. For instance my clump of *Honorabilis* blooms gorgeously close to a greedy privet hedge, in soil that is somewhat acid and damp the greater part of the year, and often it is nearly smothered by wandering Californian poppies. It is beneath consideration according to its rating but which of the nobility would do as well!

"I would like to add my plea for more consideration of the smaller irises, also. We with very small gardens and limited pocket-books cannot consider many varieties from the exhibition view point. The huge beauties do not fit as graciously into tiny gardens nor make bouquets in scale with the little houses."

Miss Tinkham also expresses her confidence in a jury symposium stating that like other small growers she is not in a position to rate novelties even the fifth year after introduction. In fact so many have expressed this feeling and so small has been the return from our 1919 and 1920 lists that we are going back to the jury plan and I hope can make a report early in the new year.

Mr. W. E. Saunders, our Canadian regional vice-president, sent in a suggestion as to the regulation of varieties that led to the development of our new system of awards the first fruits of which should come this coming spring. His suggestions would be even more worthy of acceptance IF the judges could be considered as absolutely unbiased and the judgments might be made as a consensus of opinion derived from a number of localities.

"1. That the Society advise its members and the public generally to refrain from buying any but certified varieties dating after 1910.

"2. Issue certificates for all varieties thought to be improvements either in color, form, size, etc, but they must be so good that the judging committee will decide them worth buying.

"Refuse certificates to all kinds that do not come up to the standards of real improvement.

"What a shock that would be to the fellows who wish to foist their "creations" on the public when the offerings have no value as novelties. Yet, if we don't take some such step where are we to land? As a matter of fact I suppose there are many like myself whose purchases are slim, except in the case of varieties I have actually seen."

Prof. James writes from yet another point of view, that of the collector who is entering the commercial field and doing it in what seems to me a most desirable way:

"This season I offered plants for sale for the first time—the natural increase of such old, standard varieties as I bought six and five years ago when beginning. After talking the problem over with Sydney Mitchell, I decided the right thing to do was to endeavor to create new friends for the iris, rather than to clutter up the competition among gardeners who already know irises. I therefore advertised in our best farm paper, *The Pacific Rural Press*, making an offer to send an instructive circular for beginners; and I made the most conscientious efforts, both in my circular and in letters, to induce beginners to plant varieties of real merit. Well, my sales for the season have been modest; expenses of advertising and corresponding higher than expected; but I have the satisfaction of having introduced such good irises as *Alcazar*, *Caterina*, *Isolene*, *Ringdove*, *Arnols*, *Archeveque*, etc., to persons who have never grown any irises. It seems to me that other men in my position might well spend their efforts to make new iris lovers, rather than to compete for the trade of buyers already converted to the iris. I shall never be a professional nurseryman; but as I see it, I should be seriously unethical if I offered my surplus stock at a figure so low that a professional grower could not meet my price. I have therefore offered no iris at less than \$.25; although I have named some very generous rates for larger quantities of some of the commonest varieties. I think we amateurs need to take this principle to heart; it is not right to sell our small surplus at salvage figures.

"But now comes the other side of the story: just when I am giving some time and postage to my (as I see it) laudable effort, our friend Cooper, of the *Flower Grower*, advertises in *Literary Digest*, a collection of irises as a subscription catcher—much cheaper than he or any other man can grow them regularly for the trade. Is it fair? Another recent instance: Richard Diener's newest catalog of gladioli, dahlias, etc., contains a two-page list of irises, stock from the garden of a well-to-do amateur, his neighbor. Now Diener knows all too well how to charge for gladioli; scores of his original glads run from \$1.00 to \$10.00 a bulb; several as high as \$50.00; a few much higher; and he rarely sells for less than \$.25. The same applies to his original dahlias. But he breaks into the iris game by offering *Caterina* at \$.25. Now that figure may be all *Caterina* is now worth; though I should be glad to pay \$5.00 for it, rather than for most of the new introductions. But the point is, that figure is all out of proportion to Diener's gladioli and dahlia prices. He is a notorious charger in the other lines; why should he depress the prices in the line of irises. If he undertakes to hybridize irises, watch out! Then we shall see \$25.00, \$50.00, and \$100.00 varieties galore.

"So I think you are right in warning the amateur not to expect large profits; and even more right in urging a spirit of fair price maintenance. To borrow a saying from Launcelot Gobbo: "We were Christians enow before, as many as could live off one another". I see no chance at all for a man in my position to break into the competitive trade, the established trade, such as advertises in *The Flower Grower*, *The Garden Magazine*, etc. But I do see a real opportunity to convert beginners and start them off right."

Mrs. Lewis R. Smith, though almost the only member to respond to our request for "expressed" wishes as included in the 1925 bills, is but one of many who likes the Bulletins numbered. With the exception of No. 13 "In Memoriam, Frank H. Presby" which I considered a rather unfortunate combination, all bulletins have been numbered and in order to suit the needs of library filing systems the titles have been changed to read "Bulletin of the A. I. S." etc. Her suggestion as to uniformity of size is one that I would much appreciate but as Nos. 4 and 6 were merely reprints of the report of the American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature we had little choice as to size of page.

Mrs. Smith also emphasizes that there should be no distinction between amateurs and professional growers a point that we have strongly advised in regard to all A. I. S. shows. She then goes on to say "I quite agree with you that we have entered the commercial field when we exchange upon a value basis. It is barter and sale just as much as if currency is passed but we find it generally done and personally I feel any club is at fault in their interpretation of it as non-commercial. At that I do not feel it quite as shady a subterfuge as the amateur who furnishes a commercial grower with certain surplus varieties to be sold—or again another type of "amateur" who gets away with it by having sales contracts, etc., made by some other member of the family.

"Now I am going to take issue with you as to a four or five year limitation before we amateurs exchange high-priced varieties. I feel that you will agree with me that after two seasons growth many a sturdy variety has increased to an extent that we can readily afford to exchange a division for something another grower has a corresponding number of. I think it a perfectly good business arrangement for them to exchange. Are we not by so doing carrying out the policy of our F. H. B.? If I or any other grower have taken a chance as to color, growth, etc., paid a big price to a foreign grower, paid for transportation, duty, broker, etc., and another fan has done the same with another variety I am anxious to see blooming in my garden and we can agree on an exchange it is very wise to do so rather than await the convenience of some commercial grower. Those of us who have ordered high priced novelties from some of our commercial growers have received in some instances little puny divisions taking at least two seasons to develop bloom (and that is by wintering with great care the first season) where, on the other hand, by purchase from or exchange with a fan we are far more apt to receive a standard size division. This is one condition the so called commercial grower has, in many cases, brought upon his own head. For fear you may think I am including Miss Sturtevant in this class I take great pleasure in stating that the rhizomes she sent were among the finest I received from any source.

"From one amateur who had some novelties for sale I ordered about half a dozen. Upon arrival I found seven novelties and on the same day I received a letter saying the divisions of a certain variety were smaller than usual so he had included an extra to balance the account if such an arrangement would be satisfactory. And the facts of the case are, that each and every division was above the average. So you see there is often a reason as to where the experienced buyer places his order. All commercial growers to be sure should not be classified as "short measurers" but in very many instances the fellow doing the most howling hasn't what we want when we want it and in a size commensurable with the price asked. I fear not a few are attempting a business of this kind with insufficient capital, poor business judgment, and there are evidences of lack of horticultural training. Taking this subject by the four corners—I believe you will agree with me—tall bearded iris growing is now a fad, the latest thing to be brought out is the thing

wanted by the many. By the test of time many a variety bringing a high price today will be forgotten long before some of the old standards. This condition must be recognized and the man or woman entering this business for the purpose of earning a living must enter the competitive test just the same as in any other business. If I know someone is underselling me I find out how he is doing it and the results of my investigation mean one of two things—get out of that business or adopt his methods. The great bulk of people who make their living out of the soil simply plant something or other and expect God Almighty to do the rest."

I am afraid that Mrs. Smith is a bit hard on the grower and forgets that high prices are often due to an actual scarcity of stock as well as to novelty. That is not the case with *Ambassadeur* and other *Vilmorin* productions but it is clearly so with *Cardinal* or *Reverie* and others introduced by Wallace, Orpington, or Miss Sturtevant. When there is very little stock, the demand may well exceed the supply and any sale or exchange by an amateur cuts the ground from under the reputable commercial grower who attempts to list only such varieties as he may have sufficient stock of to fill all probable orders. The lowering of prices, in that it spreads the distribution of fine varieties, is the best possible thing for iris interests but the announcement of a low price and the consequent refusal of orders (after the first few) greatly enhances the risks that a reputable grower must take in handling so many novelties of varying merit. Such lack of judgment makes growing iris a risky speculation. I will acknowledge that Miss Sturtevant's sales of her own introductions seem but little effected but I do not see how growers who have imported extensively can fight through profitably with such uncertainty as to prices as now prevails.

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(1) To observe, select, propagate and introduce the best varieties existing among Mr. Farr's rare collection of plant varieties.

(2) To persist in weeding out and discarding all but the best varieties of each group or classification.

(3) To produce plants of the highest quality by propagating them after the best methods we know of, think of, hear about or read about.

(4) To lower costs and prices by efficient management. Economics introduced during 1924, now permit us to ship plants by parcel post prepaid, while peony and iris prices have been reduced.

(5) To maintain and increase our list of regular customers by always giving satisfaction. The Farr Nursery Company shall be a credit to Mr. Farr's memory.

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N. B. Better Plants—By Farr, 1925 edition, lists and describes all the better iris, peonies, phlox, chrysanthemums and other perennials. A selected list of lilacs and a few novelty shrubs. Copies are free to A. I. S. members.

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**500 GARFIELD AVENUE
WYOMISSING, Pa.**

Avallon, a winning exhibit made by Mr. Clarence White at Redlands, Calif.



Notes on Iris Troubles and Practices

A letter from the Dept. of Agriculture concerning Iris leaf-spot as sent for examination by Mr. Bonnewitz.

"Your specimens show the presence of the common leafspot disease of iris which is widely distributed in this country. It is caused by a fungus which persists over winter on the dead leaves and infects the new foliage as it appears in the spring.

Dr. Tisdale, who studied this disease at the University of Wisconsin found that it could be controlled under conditions prevailing there by thorough removal of the spotted leaves in the spring before the new foliage appeared and the further removal of any of the young leaves which subsequently showed spots.

In England it is the prevailing opinion that only lime loving varieties of iris are attacked by this disease when they are grown in soil deficient in lime. The practice there prevails of removing dead and spotted leaves in the fall, giving the soil surface a clean cultivation and raking in lime about the plants. Whether leaves are to be removed in the fall or spring would depend somewhat on how long they remained green. Where they die completely before winter, Tisdale's experience would indicate that there is no objection to leaving them until Spring, but if they are partly green in the fall, it is possible that they had best be cut then.

Mr. Williamson reports as to the practice of burning the foliage:

"Last fall more or less leaves were blown in about the iris rows. One dry, warm day in late fall I went over them with a blow torch and walked up and down the rows firing the leaves. You can start a lot of fires with mighty little work with a blow torch. Some places there were many leaves and in some few. The other evening (June 3-6) I went over the patch carefully to estimate if there had been any fire damage. My conclusion is that the leafy things (mainly cypriana but not all cypriana derivations) must be burned, if at all, with the greatest care. Either the burning off exposed them to too much freezing and thawing, or the burning killed them for many of them are dead,—of that there is no question. Rajput was the most evergreen iris in my garden (It was not burned) and the leaves did not winterkill and mush as they do on Miss Willmott, Crusader, Lady Foster, etc. Some of the leaves on Rajput seem alive to the extreme tip and if it will do it right along I believe this is a desirable trait.

"Observations this spring indicate four main ways of wintering with all intermediate conditions shown.

"1. Green in late fall and early winter with leaves persisting through the winter with little damage (Rajput). This is good if it is a constant character.

"2. Green in late fall and early winter with leaves mushing more or less in spring, turning black as they die (Crusader and others). A bad to very bad point.

"3. Vegetation ripening off and for the most part entirely disappearing. (Ambassadeur, Lent A., and others). (According to Mr. Dykes this is typical of germanica and its hybrids. Ed.) The plant practically unprotected but there is little or no damage ordinarily,—it is probably the best of all.

"4. Vegetation ripening down over the plant and persisting as a grass or excelsior-like bunch which lifts clean off without any attachments in spring. (Probably a character of some variegatas)."

As to the acid treatment of seed, Mr. Shreve writes as follows. "I used the commercial H₂SO₄ and about a saturated bicarbonate of sodium solution. Shell off the corky husk of the larger seeds like those of

hexagona, fulva, etc. Have your acid ready. Pour in seed and be ready to get them out within 60 seconds—by pouring off the acid and dumping in the sodium solution. Be prepared however for considerable action and have the vessels large enough. Just enough acid to wet the seeds is best but don't try it with all your valuable seed as accidents may happen. The seed is left in the sodium until effervescence entirely ceases."

Mr. Brooker and other members in the neighborhood of St. Louis have reported serious losses from a new source. The foliage develops very little and yellows and dies away by flowering time. On examination it is found that though the rhizome seems perfectly sound there is no development of fibrous roots. We have seen very occasional samples of this in our seed beds over a period of a number of years and I also noted it in a visit to Mr. Williamson. Even the pathologists have found no indications of fungi or disease and at the Shaw Botanical Garden the majority of affected plants given special cold-frame treatment recovered during the course of the summer. The following "guess" on the part of Mr. Shull I consider a reasonable explanation as in my small experience the plants affected have always been seedlings that might perhaps reveal, in this way, an inherited weakness. Although it was a serious matter to the St. Louis growers last spring, neither Mr. Williamson or I have any reason to suspect that it is either contagious or infectious. I sincerely hope, however, that the present mystery will be solved.

"My idea is that you are suffering from a type of winter injury dependant upon a rather unusual combination of circumstances. If during the winter while the ground is deeply frozen you should have had thawing of an inch or two at the top and this settled by rain followed again by severe freezing of the surface soil it would tend to raise the rhizome at a time when the roots were firmly held below and thus tearing the rhizome from the roots. Frost action of this kind is very powerful and if provided with just such circumstances would probably result in just such damage. It may not be possible at this time to determine whether such weather and soil conditions occurred with you last winter but I can think of no other possibility to account for it.

This is only a guess, but if it is correct your rhizomes should contain flower buds but which would possibly blight instead of developing owing to the lack of roots to provide the necessary flow of sap. The rhizomes themselves should recover as the season advances and new roots are produced and would probably be ready again next year to bloom as usual."

For full information on the Verbena Bud Moth send for Bulletin No. 226 to the The Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Brevities

All credit to The Bay State Nurseries, a large general nursery at No. Abington, Mass; for listing "Irises for the Beginner" and giving us credit for our work.

Mrs. A. Oettinger, President of the Garden Club writes me that

Owners of fine collections of Iris

who have the best varieties and can guarantee their stocks as being true to name and of highest quality will please communicate with

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New York City.

Goldsboro, N. C., has joined the list of "iris" cities with an initial planting on one of the main parkways. An iris sale by the Girl Scouts and, in the following spring, a show marked the beginning of a real interest in a completely new locality.

Many will be interested to hear that Mr. Mead, our genial vice-president has developed a hybrid *hemerocallis* of real merit.

The Home Garden Association of the Public Utilities Employees of Chicago deserve much credit for their work in developing interest in gardens and I am glad that we can share in the good work.

Miss Grace Sturtevant received a Special Gold Medal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for her work as a breeder and introducer of irises.

Mr. George Yeld whose name is familiar to every grower of irises writes in acknowledgement of his election as an Honorary Member: "Please convey to the American Iris Society my best thanks for the honor they have done me in electing me an honorary member. I am much gratified". You will be glad to know that Mr. Yeld is also the recipient of the Victoria Medal of Honor.

I note that Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Essig of Berkeley opened their garden to the public this last spring and I wish that I might have seen their thousand seedlings.

I don't know how many of you know "The Joemma Bulletin" but the number of June 1st, berates Mr. Weed for naming an iris Ruby Queen and listing it at \$1.00 when "Joe Smith" has "at least as good" a one at \$.25. and to think that it was all our fault in that Mr. Weed was permitted to use the name, even though it was in the complete check list. It is clearly unsafe to consider that a variety ever becomes obsolete and even more so in the case of so appealing a name as Ruby Queen. Mr. Weed's iris is not at all bad by the way and fully worth the dollar to the initiate.

Mrs. J. Edgar Hires has started a new iris center in Williston, No. Dakota, not only by her enthusiasm but by actual contribution of good varieties from her Pennsylvania garden.

As in the past Mrs. Katherine P. Wright added to the popularity of irises in Nashville, Tenn., by the publicity given the opening of some nineteen gardens to the public. I wonder if, sometime, Providence will permit me to visit the gardens of Mrs. Wright, of Drs. Kirkland and Glenn, of Mrs. Dillon and Mrs. Loveman, all good members and of course that of Mr. Connell who compiled our symposium.

Mrs. Peckham also gave iris a boost in the daily "colyum" "Now My Idea is This" of the New York Evening Post.

Mrs. David Brant of Iowa City, one of charter members if I remember correctly, won local mention from the beauty of her iris and the charm of her garden.

Miss M. Powell of 1013 De Kalb St. Norristown, Pa., wishes to obtain *I. reticulata* and *I. bucharica*.

Has anyone stock of John W. Tribolet and Maude Tribolet, both MB hybrids originally produced and distributed by gift by Mr. Williamson? One of them I have seen and it is certainly unfortunate if it has disappeared from cultivation.

Mr. Pilkington writes me that at the spring meeting of the Iris Society, W. J. Caparne brought a big collection of water colors of various irises which proved most interesting.

"Chasseur has brown red markings at the base of the falls below the beard and is not of a clear yellow color. Shekinah is much better. Chasseur grows about 40 inches and is a hardy quick grower. On my plants the petals are rather round and full, almost squat for the size of the bloom but they may be better next year.

"The Denis seedlings, Mme. Durrande, Leverrier, Mme. Denis, Clement Desormes, and Susanne Autissier bloomed for me this year and were really wonderful—tremendous flowers on tall graceful stalks. They were well worth growing and have proved hardy through two very severe winters." R. Jackson Hopper, Montreal.

Mr. Adams sends in a note as to a visit of the American Horticultural Society to the garden of H. P. Simpson who is responsible for that really fine variety Arlington.

The display of Iris was very magnificent despite the two previous hot and windy days which were very trying to the fragile blooms. Mr. Simpson's new introduction "Arlington" was seen in good form and from the rows of four or five hundred different plants one could see what a splendid mass planting it made. There were other note-worthy seedlings, particularly an unusually red one, Andalusia, which attracted everyone's favorable comment. A Parc de Neuilly seedling was conspicuous because of its fine blue coloring and its splendid height and vigor. Several plicatas were superior in height and number of blooms on a stalk with anything now in the trade. The unusual number of blooms in the garden was surprising, especially so when one considers that we had several late frosts that made a good many varieties come blind.

Refreshments were served under the shade of the historical Virginia trees and after a most delightful afternoon the Society and friends returned to Washington City.

Perry's Iris Mrs. Marion Cran

Decided differences in opinion expressed by Iris enthusiasts regarding any particular variety usually merely reflect differences in personal taste. Occasionally, however, there is a simpler explanation. Sometimes

MY COLLECTION OF CHOICE IRISES

will be more complete than ever next season. For I have added most of the noteworthy 1925 introductions and many of them will be blooming in my gardens during the coming season.

There are three PERRY varieties, which the originator considers among his best and which by pre-arrangement were received by me early in 1925. These will be the only plants of these three varieties blooming in this country during 1926.

There is the famous "ALLIES" by Vilmorin, as well as "SPAHI" and "GRENADIER" introduced to the public for the first time during 1925.

And there are fine established clumps of the 1923 and 1924 introductions of Bliss, Cayeux, Millet, Goos & Koeneman, Vilmorin and others.

Then many of the finest late American introductions of merit will be found in this collection; and for trial many other American varieties, brought together where they can be compared side by side with the world's best. There are more than 800 varieties. I have tried to make it the most comprehensive collection possible.

If you are interested in Irises come and visit my collection next season. I promise you will be well repaid for the visit. It's just twenty minutes out of New York, from the Penna. Station. You are welcome any time.

Robert Wayman, Bayside, L.I., N.Y.

when this difference of opinion applies to an old favorite it is evident that varieties have been confused. Several dealers have unknowingly carried Caprice for Edouard Michel. Jacquesiana is occasionally sold for Prosper Laugier. A year or two ago a well known nurseryman offered Magnifica for twenty-five cents. Those bargain hunters who purchased with the idea they were getting the Vilmorin variety were naturally disappointed when these plants proved to be Dr. Bernice, I have received Tineae for Albert Victor and Othello for Leonidas,

One of the most recent controversies has been with reference to Perry's variety Marion Cran. This variety has been generously praised in England and appears to be a great favorite, considered by many to be Perry's finest introduction. American Iris enthusiasts have, however, been much puzzled because some experts in this country have condemned it unmercifully while others have been generous in their praises. It was included in one American catalog in 1925 for \$5.00 with the frank admission that it was being discarded, while one California dealer offers it for \$50.00 and praises it highly.

The explanation appears to be that Perry introduced two varieties with almost identical names and added to the confusion by offering one of them only once and then apparently discarding it.

In Perry's catalog No. 206, dated Autumn 1921, the following description appears:

"**Marion Cran**, extremely dainty, flowers small produced in great profusion, (S.) light rosy purple, (F.) deep rose with a telling white crest."

In his catalog, No. 211, dated Sept. 1922, Perry offers the following:

"**Mrs. Marion Cran**, one of the most beautiful Iris yet introduced, stout stems, well furnished with large perfectly shaped flowers, a glorious shade of brilliant light rose. Stock limited."

The first was offered for 7 shillings 6 pence, while the latter was first offered for 10 pounds 10 shillings. The name Mrs. Marion Cran with the same description appears in Perry's 1923, 1924 and 1925 catalogs always at high prices, while the name Marion Cran does not again appear. It is obvious from the description that two varieties are involved.

The confusion has been increased by an unfortunate error in Standardized Plant names (also Bulletin 8, American Iris Society). On page 234 of that generally invaluable compilation the name is given **Marion Cran T. B.** (Per. N.) indicating that the variety had not then (January 1923) been introduced. The Supplement to Bulletin 8 of the A. I. S. gives it as follows. **Marion Cran T. B.** (Per. 1921-23), indicating that it was introduced in 1923. As a matter of fact **Marion Cran** was introduced in 1921 and **Mrs. Marion Cran** in 1922 as shown above.

Those who imported in 1921 or in the spring of 1922 presumably obtained the cheap, ordinary variety Marion Cran, while those who imported later obtained Mrs. Marion Cran, apparently a variety of great merit.

Since both varieties have been introduced to American trade, there is but one logical solution of the difficulty, to officially recognize both names in the check list. It would be highly desirable, of course, if those who have Marion Cran would discard it and those who have the valuable variety would catalog it as Mrs. Marion Cran (Perry 1922).

(PROF.) H. S. JACKSON,
Purdue University,
LaFayette, Indiana.

Suggestions from and to Members

I am putting in very brief form a number of suggestions received from you all which sound worth carrying out and yet which I have not had the time to develop by personal letters and requests. In Bulletin 2

of the English Iris Society Mr. Dykes suggests "that each member thereof undertake to grow one or two or half a dozen of the wild species and make himself responsible for them. He would endeavor to obtain a few seeds of each species each year and these seeds would be available to other members". Other members would co-operate by seed contribution when possible or take advantage of this source of supply.

In itself this is a splendid suggestion but I think the idea applicable to a far wider field of inquiry. Hence I am listing a variety of proposed studies, some small, some large. In your iris correspondence you are undoubtedly chasing up certain points of interest so why not share the results with us all? For example Mrs. McKinney has been collecting all the so called pallida Dalmaticas in order to report the variations. Mrs. Hitchcock has been collecting the Dwarf Bearded and very recently Mrs. Lewis R. Smith told me of her findings in reference to the confusion resulting from naming two varieties, Marion Cran and Mrs. Marion Cran respectively.

Such still-hunts for "rare-bits" of information are always amusing and I hope that the next bulletin may list the self-appointed chairmen (and ladies) of various committees of investigation.

Mr. Duffy wishes to know just what requirements of soil and climate Dominion and its progeny prefer.

As announced elsewhere Dr. George Reed of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden is making an intensive study of the Japanese Irises and will appreciate contributions of either plants or information. In a similar way Dr. Edgar Anderson of the Shaw Botanical Garden, St. Louis, is studying the variations in the irises of the middle west and has visited many a colony thereof in recent blooming seasons. You also know of Dr. J. K. Small's work with the native irises as published at the N. Y. Botanical Garden in Vol. 9, No. 4 of Addisonia.

Due to the kindness of one or two members we have in the past pub-

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Packet, 25 seeds, \$1.00 from unusual ones.

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Grace Sturtevant, Prop.

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In addition to a number of my own seedlings I list about one thousand species and varieties.

SAM BURCHFIELD

HURON VALLEY IRIS GARDENS

ANN ARBOR

MICHIGAN

lished Iris calendars for a few localities. Would it not be desirable to have other localities thus represented and perhaps also notes as to what varieties have proved a failure?

The classification is much criticised and justifiably so but it will prove almost impossible to check it in its entirety in any one garden while any member might collect all the varieties of one class and verify or correct the list.

Mrs. Aldrich suggests that it would be well for breeders to invite neighboring members to see seedlings before sending them on for trial at the N. Y. Garden. A most wise suggestion but who of us would have the heart to turn down a seedling that was the pride of our host or hostess.

Where iris beds are in close proximity to the house the persistent evergreen foliage of some varieties is most effective. I have an Idaho report and odd notes of my own and I wish some one would conduct a little private symposium on the subject.

Mrs. Stout, in behalf of the Garden Club of America suggests that the Iris Society should provide a syllabus and slides or large colored pictures to be available for the use of garden clubs who would be urged to devote one meeting a year to the iris. Has any member the ability and the time to cooperate in preparing this much needed material?

A similar suggestion but with a different purpose has come in from Mr. Milliken the purchaser of the Dean Iris Gardens. Would it not be possible for the Society to arrange for the production of accurately colored illustrations and to sell these to commercial members for advertising purposes thus spreading the interest in irises and the Society. As Mr. Milliken points out this is too expensive a proposition for the individual concern and yet it would immediately make known the merits of a good variety. Unfortunately the proposition is too expensive for the Society as well and would have to be handled by voluntary contributions over a series of years. We should get both accurate original

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Iris and Peony Descriptive
Price Lists sent free on request.

MOVILLA GARDENS

James Boyd

John C. Wister

Haverford, Pa.

paintings (to be done properly by experts only) and equally accurate color plates that are expensive to reproduce. The difficulties of efficient distribution, advertising, etc., are undoubtedly surmountable but it seems unlikely that enough capital could be secured to make an adequate start upon such an undertaking. Originators might well afford to donate the reproduction of their introductions but I seriously question whether the small grower would receive a commensurate return. At any rate, there is the proposition. Does it interest you sufficiently to receive real support?

Mr. Wister has written, forwarding a request that I publish the following suggestions from Mr. Campbell. (1) That anyone willing to co-operate in a careful study of the classification and of the varieties involved while they are in bloom write to Frank W. Campbell, 2233 La Mothe Ave., Detroit, Mich., and (2) that members consider the following proposal planned to regulate the introduction of new varieties.

"That no introduction be mentioned in print until officially judged by representatives of the Society in an official test garden."

As Mr. Wister did not forward Mr. Campbell's original letter I may be misquoting his plan and further attention will be given the subject in the next bulletin. Mr. Campbell has an idea worthy of careful consideration and I hope his mail will be flooded.

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Special prices for July delivery

Single rhizomes	\$ 1.00
One dozen rhizomes	9.00
One hundred rhizomes	60.00

(Transportation charges extra)

My complete Price List will be ready for mailing April first. A copy free on request.

LEE R. BONNEWITZ

Box 390, Van Wert, Ohio

Kindred Spirits Build

IN every community kindred spirits build an appreciation for the better things in life. As members of the American Iris Society we are linked to others of like ideals and similar aims in the propagation of Irises; not alone because of their beauty and hardiness, for there is, in the loveliness of good flowers, an appeal for a better community spirit.

Q Surrounded as we are, each of us, by folks who like the things that we like, who strive to build into the community the things that we strive to build, gives an opportunity to us all, to widen the scope of our individual influence for better flowers.

Q The American Iris Society wants to grow; it wants to build in every community. Won't you send us in the names of kindred spirits so that they may receive an invitation to join our Society?

The American Iris Society